USA $12.99 Europe €9.95 UK £8.30 2012#6 www.newinchess.com

NEW IN CHESS

王浩

Relentless fighting in brilliant Biel jubilee

Lubos Kavalek relives the Match of the Century

Fabiano Caruana claims first super victory in Dortmund

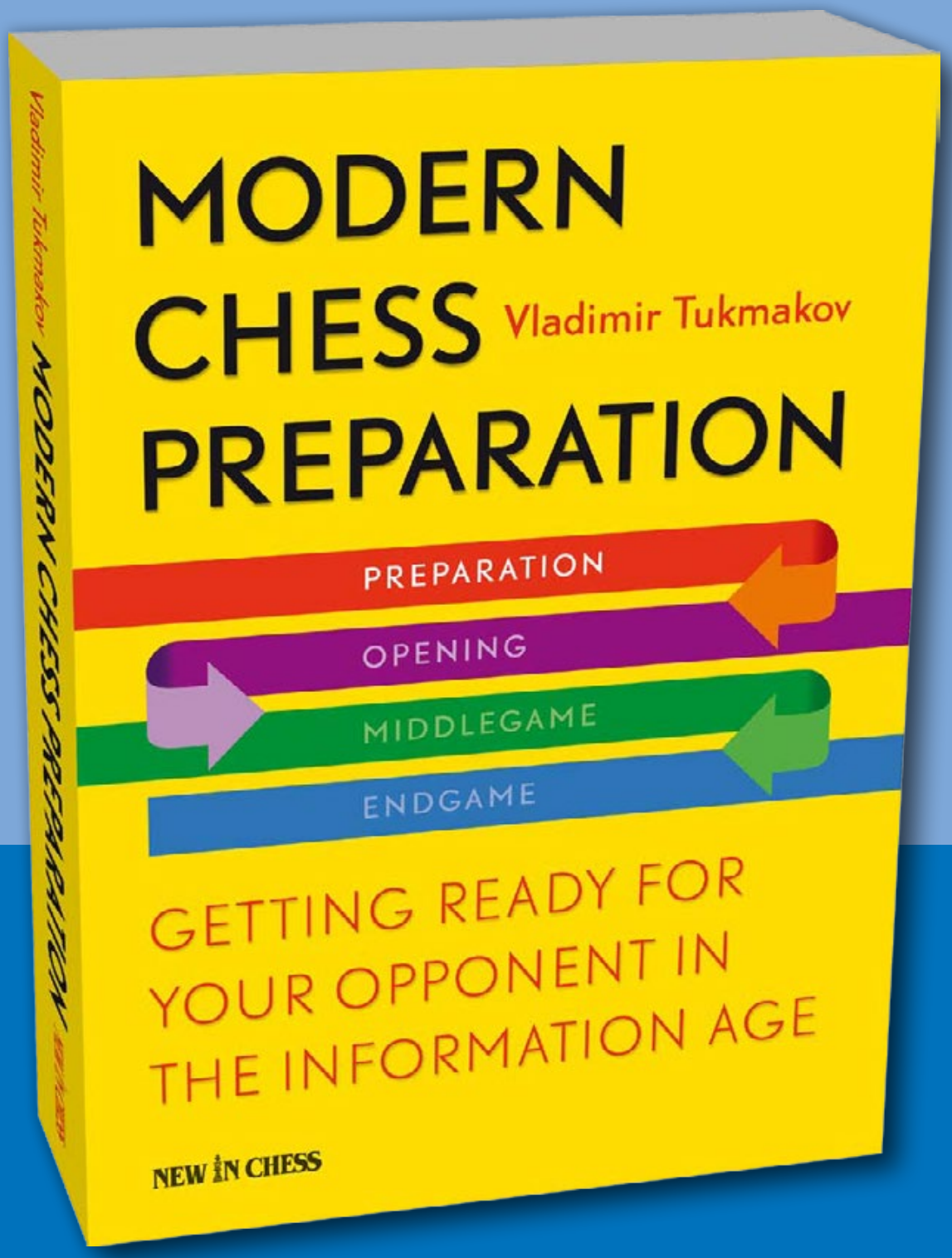
Wang Hao

‘I got bored with playing normal games’

ISBN 978-90-5691-388-5

POLITIKEN CUP IMPRESSIONS BY JAN TIMMAN ★ NIGEL SHORT WEIGHS THE PROS AND CONS OF TIEBREAKERS ★ JUST CHECKING SAM SHANKLAND

Winning starts with planning before the game



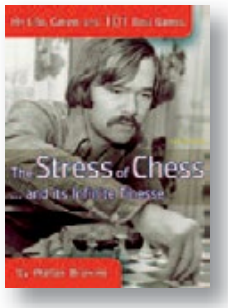
NEW!

- ✔ what to aim for
- ✔ how to use your computer
- ✔ how *not* to use your computer
- ✔ with a special chapter on must-win situations

Paperback • 288 pages • € 23.95 • available at your local (chess)bookseller or at newinchess.com • a NEW IN CHESS publication

BESTSELLERS

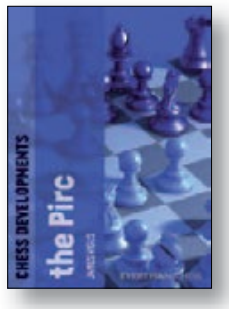
New In Chess Online Shop



1

The Stress of Chess (...and its infinite finesse)
My Life, Career and 101 Best Games
by Walter Browne

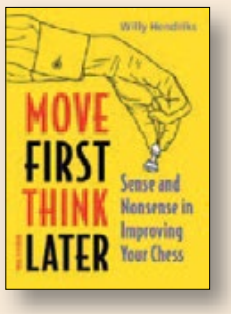
"He was a demon." Yasser Seirawan



6

Chess Developments: The Pirc
Packed with Key New Ideas and Critical Analysis
by James Vigus

The main developments in the Pirc since 2007



2

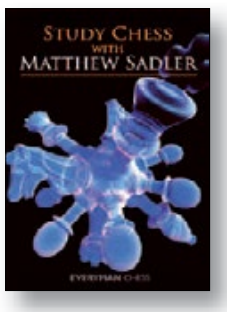
Move First, Think Later
Sense and Nonsense in Improving Your Chess
by Willy Hendriks

"What a fantastic book!" Steve Giddins

7

Play the French
4th Edition
by John Watson

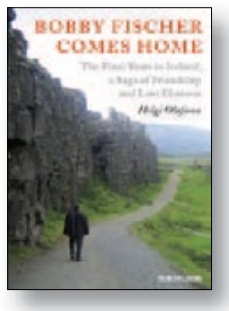
New edition of a classic



3

Study Chess with Matthew Sadler
The Most Important Skills for Success
by Matthew Sadler

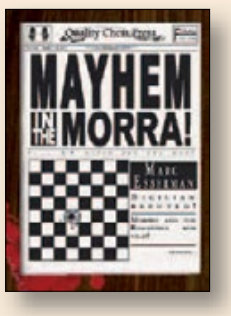
An expert course on how to come back as a player



8

Bobby Fischer Comes Home
The Final Years in Iceland
by Helgi Olafsson

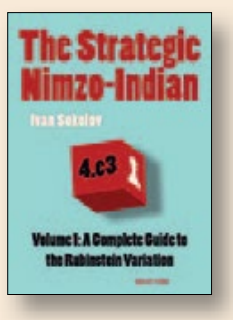
"Thoughtful, thorough and balanced." ChessCafe



4

Mayhem in the Morra!
A complete anti-Sicilian repertoire
by Marc Esserman

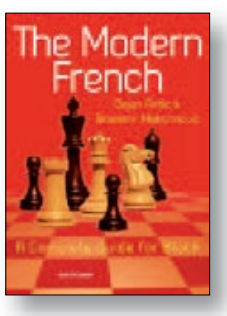
"I got crushed."
GM Loek van Wely on playing Marc Esserman in a Morra



9

The Strategic Nimzo-Indian
Vol. 1: A Complete Guide to the Rubinstein Variation
by Ivan Sokolov

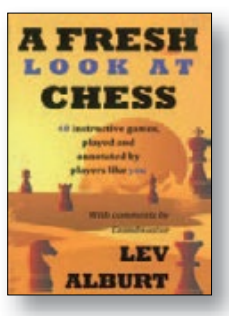
"An outstanding book." Chess Today



5

The Modern French
A Complete Guide for Black
by Dejan Antic & Branimir Maksimovic

"An excellent piece of work." Glenn Flear



10

A Fresh Look at Chess
40 Instructive games, played and annotated by players like you
by Lev Alburt

The best lessons from amateurs' games

... and a sweeping variety of more than 2,000 chess products at www.newinchess.com

2012 Issue 6

NEW IN CHESS

PUBLISHER: Allard Hoogland EDITORS-IN-CHIEF: Dirk Jan ten Geuzendam, Jan Timman

6 NIC's Café

10 Your Move

14 Wang Hao's sixpack
The Biel Chess Festival celebrated its 45th anniversary with a wealth of fighting chess. Normally speaking Magnus Carlsen's four wins and six draws would have been enough for the Norwegian to defend his title. However, with wins counting for three points, Wang Hao's six wins, three losses (two against Carlsen!) and one draw resulted in one of the finest tournament victories in the young Chinese player's career.

36 Interview: Wang Hao
A frank talk with an unusual talent who has rediscovered his pleasure in the game and is happily facing the opportunities and choices an unknown future has on offer. 'When you play tournaments continuously, you feel kind of sad.'

40 Dortmund King Caruana
Fabiano Caruana, now solidly in the top ten, and currently the world's most active elite grandmaster, finally scored his first super tournament victory, just in time for his twentieth birthday.

60 'Get ready, 'cause here I come'
Lubos Kavalek was in Reykjavik for the Match of the Century, both as a journalist and, in the second half, as Bobby Fischer's second. Forty years on, he relives a most memorable chess experience.

'Bobby and Bill were a great pair, but during that night they turned into two strong personalities with two different opinions. The tension was resolved by Lombardy's sneeze. "I don't want to get your cold, Bill", Bobby said and added he wanted to work with me. Bill left quietly.' – Lubos Kavalek

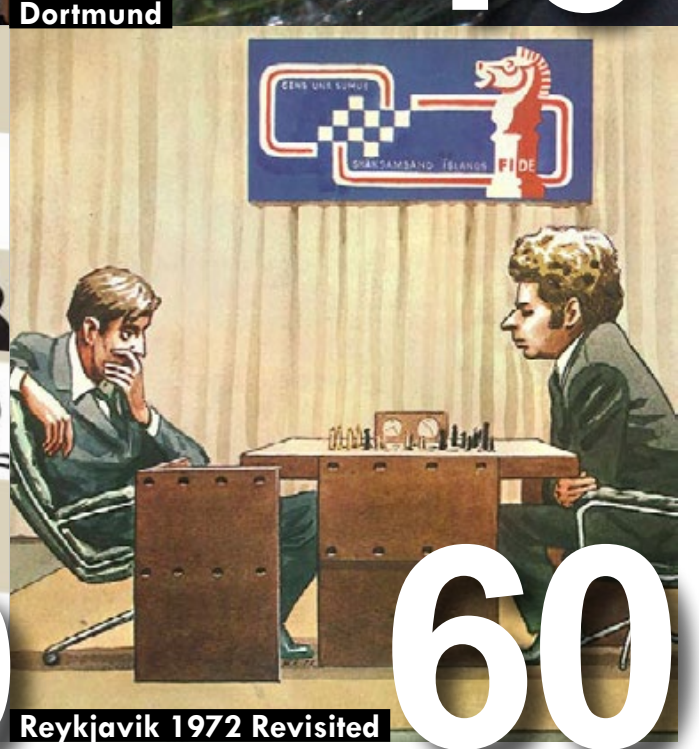
COLOPHON p.9
SUBSCRIPTIONS p.94

98 Just Checking

14 Biel Chess Festival

40 Dortmund

69 Forcing Moves



60 Reykjavik 1972 Revisited

69 Hertan's Forcing Moves

70 Hou Yifan wins FIDE Grand Prix
With a clear first place in the Jermuk GP, the Women's World Champion secured overall victory in the 2011-12 FIDE Grand Prix, confirming her status in today's women's chess.

74 Symbiosis
Nigel Short looks at various tiebreakers and wonders if it makes sense to change the rules of the game.

76 Be prepared!
In his new ground-breaking book Vladimir Tukmakov shows how you should prepare for your opponent in the Information Age.

82 Through the Luking Glass
Luke McShane has been reading books you may want to read too!

86 Dancing dervish
Hans Ree on Walter Browne's auto-biographical games collection *The Stress of Chess*.

90 A fine tradition
Jan Timman thoroughly enjoyed the 34th Politiken Cup.

98 Just Checking
Does Sam Shankland have any superstitions concerning chess?

CONTRIBUTORS TO THIS ISSUE
Julie Ashcraft, Fabiano Caruana, Anish Giri, Wang Hao, Charles Hertan, Lubos Kavalek, Peter Leko, Luke McShane, Hikaru Nakamura, Yannick Pelletier, Macauley Peterson, Hans Ree, Sam Shankland, Nigel Short, Jan Timman, Vladimir Tukmakov, Hou Yifan

PHOTOS AND ILLUSTRATIONS
Vladimir Barsky, Biel Chess Festival, Boris Dolmatovsky, Calle Erlandsson, Dagobert Kohlmeyer, Macauley Peterson, Adel Samara, Elias Shalhoub

COVER PHOTO
Wang Hao: New In Chess

Source of solace

That chess has often been compared to war, and vice versa, can hardly be called surprising. After all, chess is generally accepted to have originated as a 'war game' with two armies – or four in its Indian precursor Chaturanga – opposing each other. At the same time, chess can also be a source of solace in times of war, as music journalist Julie Ashcraft brought to our notice. A pioneer in rap music, Ashcraft is also a keen lover of chess. In 1982 she was the first female to make a rap record, entitled 'Katz Rap', in Europe. In the mid-1990s *Chess Monthly* published her poem *Go Fish*, which was partly inspired by Bobby Fischer and Paul Morphy. Following a visit to Iran in 2009, Ashcraft has been writing about Middle Eastern music, politics and culture. One of the bands she is in touch with is Sham MCs (Sham meaning Damascus in Arabic), whose first album, released three years ago, still tops the Syrian Hip-Hop charts.

ADEL SAMARA

Sham MCs, Syria's most successful rappers.

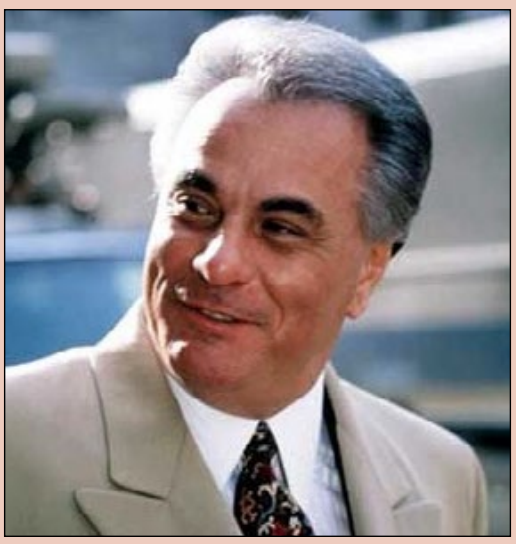
When she mentioned chess the other day in a Skype conversation with members of the band, she got a reaction she had not expected. 'I love chess!', Sham MCs's rapper Mad Fox told her from Damascus, adding that he plays chess 'day and night' as bombs explode near his home. Mad's Sham MCs colleague Mic Son said, 'We have a new Rock song where Mad, Freed, Bad D and I discuss the battle between dark and light, good and evil. The hook is, "Black and white gives you grey. Be careful. On your nature, stay. To change your self, there is no way. Live your life as a game and play."' When Ashcraft mentioned that political strategists refer to the Middle East as 'the grand chessboard', Mad responded, 'Oh my God! This is interesting and scary! Who's White?'

ELIAS SHALHOUB

The Arabic logo of Sham MCs in a chess environment on Facebook.

The Al Capone of chess

Rather than compare chess to war, John Gotti preferred to draw a parallel with crime. The legendary Mafia capo apparently advised his fellow gangsters to play chess, because it 'makes you think like a boss'. This lesser known side of Gotti, who in 1992 was sentenced to life in prison, where he died 10 years later, is revealed in a new memoir by his former associate Sal Polisi, called *The Sinatra Club: My Life Inside the New York Mafia*.



Legendary mobster John Gotti also liked 'to crush the other guy's ego'.

A lousy poker player, Gotti loved Monopoly (with real money) and Scrabble, playing both games with considerable stakes. But the game he loved most was chess, as it was 'a good way to develop your powers of concentration and learn how to see the big picture and think things through'. Gotti picked up chess during the 1972 Fischer-Spassky match. He idolized the American champion, calling him the 'Al Capone of chess' and using his catchphrases like 'I love to crush the other guy's ego'. That must not have sounded too reassuring coming from a man held responsible for numerous killings.

Class of 1990

There is broad consensus that as a birth year 1990 has a special ring to it. Indeed, who would argue with a year that produced unusual talents like Magnus Carlsen, Sergey Karjakin, Ian Nepomniachtchi and Maxime Vachier-Lagrave?

Although he was Junior World Champion in 2010, Dmitry Andreikin (1990!) has been mainly living in the shadow of his better known contemporaries so far. This may change now that the young Russian grandmaster has won the championship of the number one chess country in the world. In the absence of Kramnik, Morozevich and a number of 2700+ GMs, this year's Super Final sounded a bit less super than usual. An impression that was strengthened by the fact that 75 per cent of the games were drawn and that there was a massive 6-way tie for first place. The next day those six (in finishing order: Andreikin, Karjakin, Svidler, Jakovenko, Potkin and Alekseev) decided the championship in a rapid play-off, with the new champion, an acknowledged specialist in the faster time controls, scoring 4 out of 5.

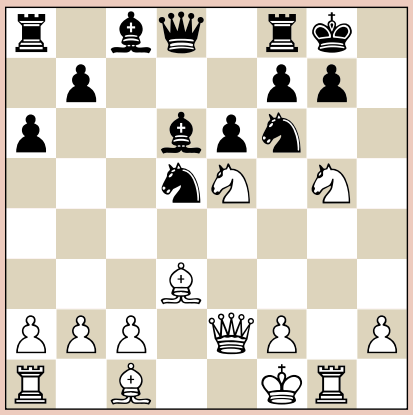
The most spectacular game of the new champion was the following brilliant attack.

VLADIMIR BARSKY

New Russian Champion Dmitry Andreikin.

CK 9.12 – B17
Dmitry Andreikin
Sanan Sjugirov
Moscow 2012 (6)

1.e4 c6 2.d4 d5 3.♘d2 dxe4 4.♘xe4 ♘d7 5.♗c4 ♘gf6 6.♘g5 e6 7.♕e2 ♘b6 8.♗d3 h6 9.♘5f3 c5 10.dxc5 ♗xc5 11.♘e5 0-0 12.♘gf3 a6 According to Andreikin, the losing mistake. White quickly builds up an overwhelming attack on the kingside. **13.g4 ♘bd5 14.♖g1 ♗b4+ 15.♔f1 ♗e7 16.g5 hxg5 17.♘xg5 ♗d6**



18.♘h7! Brilliant play. **18...♕c7** 18...♘xh7 19.♗xh7+ ♔xh7 20.♕h5+ ♔g8 21.♖xg7+ leads to a quick mate. 18...♗xe5 19.♕xe5, and Black will lose the exchange on f8, come down in flames or both. **19.♗h6 ♘e8** 19...g6 20.♘xf6+ ♘xf6 21.♘xg6 fxg6 22.♖xg6+ will not last long either. **20.♗xg7 ♘xg7 21.♖xg7+** Brute force. **21...♔xg7 22.♕g4+ ♔h8 23.♘f6** And not wishing to be mated (for example 23...♘xf6 24.♕h4+ ♔g7 25.♕g5+ ♔h8 26.♕xf6+ ♔g8 27.♕g5+ ♔h8 28.♕h6+ ♔g8 29.♕h7 mate) Sjugirov resigned.

Putin Riot

Dmitry Andreikin must have been pleased by the interest his Russian title created, but the attention he attracted was a small drop compared to the ocean of news items, videos, tweets and what not that followed the arrest of Garry Kasparov in Moscow. The former World Champion had come to the courthouse where the members of the punk band Pussy Riot were to be sentenced to jail for their anti-Putin performance on the altar of the Christ the Saviour Church in Moscow last February. Kasparov had not come to join any protests, which had

Riot police arrest Garry Kasparov and force him into a van.

been forbidden, but only wanted to attend the reading of the sentence (that he obviously condemned), which was his good right. After he had given an interview to a radio reporter he was suddenly grabbed by riot police and forced into a police van with considerable violence. Later that day he was released and allowed to visit a hospital. His release briefly reassured his followers, but their worries soon returned when it became known that he had been accused of biting a policeman, an offence for which he could go to jail. Kasparov dismissed the accusation as nonsensical. No doubt he is right, but it is certainly worrying that the greatest chess player of all time may end up in the clutches of a legal system where Lady Justice is not always blindfolded.

No place like home

On the same day that the arrest of Kasparov made headlines around the globe, news about another former World Champion was broken that was perhaps even more shocking. The Russian daily *Komsomolskaya Pravda* published a startling interview with Boris Spassky in which he said that he had fled his home in Paris, where in the past two years he had been living as if in a prison. In September 2010 Spassky suffered a stroke which left him partly paralyzed while he was in Moscow for a visit. As soon as his condition allowed it, he was taken back to France, where he had been living for many years, for medical treatment. From that moment on, little or nothing was heard from him. He now explains why. On his return he received poor or no medical treatment and was cut off from the outside world. Spassky doesn't say who blocked the incoming phone calls and kept him from communicating via email, but the clear suggestion is that it was his wife Marina he had to flee from. With the help of some friends who knew his situation, he was smuggled out of the house and taken to the Russian embassy. There he was provided with the necessary documents

NEW IN CHESS

Boris Spassky: looking for freedom in Mother Russia.

to return to Russia, as both his Russian and his French passport had disappeared. In the Russian capital he was taken to a clinic where he intends to work on his recovery. He hopes that soon he'll be back on his feet again and return to his normal chess life. ■

Your Move

A class player

Recently someone scanned and sent me the great article about my grandfather Jose Raul Capablanca in New In Chess 2012/3. My mother was Gloria Capablanca, his daughter from his first nuptials with Gloria Simoni Betancourt. My uncle Jose Raul also passed away many years ago, his widow Mercedez is currently visiting in Miami. She lives in Cuba but has a Spanish passport.

The arrangement of Pelayo (Ramon San Pelayo, a Cuban sugar industrialist friend of the family with whose financial support Capablanca was sent to the United States to study – ed.) with my grandfather was that my grandfather would not waste any time playing the 'game' of chess and concentrate on his studies and return to work at his sugar mill in exchange for his scholarship. During his year at prep school and first year at Columbia he did not play.

According to an essay written by my late mother's cousin Jocobo Ros (son of JR's sister Aida), during his homecoming some of the students started to kid JR that he was not really Cuba's Chess Champion. The Chess Club had set up some kind of booth with a player dressed as a robot. For some coin (maybe a nickel or a quarter) you could play against it to raise funds. JR agreed to go play the robot, so they would leave him alone, and defeated the make-believe robot. As he was walking away with his friends, a chess club member came out and asked JR to speak with the 'robot'. The 'robot', now without his hood, stated that he did not know he was playing a 'class player'. He asked JR who he was and JR explained. The 'robot' then identified himself as Frank Marshall and requested to play again. They played to a draw (my cousin never said if it was an intentional draw by JR) and from that point on Marshall took him under his wing (I have read that from Cuba JR played by telegraph against players at the Manhattan Chess Club and according to Miguel Angel Sanchez, my grandfather's biographer whom my uncle considered the best historian about JR, he visited and played at the MCC since his arrival in New York, both of which would kind of contradict this anecdote) and afterwards JR started going periodically to the Manhattan Chess Club.

According to Miguel Angel the whole anecdote about the make-believe robot is a myth. At the same time I read the handwritten essay

Write to us

New In Chess, P.O. Box 1093
1810 KB Alkmaar, The Netherlands
or e-mail: editors@newinchess.com
Letters may be edited or abridged

that Jocobo Ros sent to my mother. My sister and I saw it while packing up my mother's belongings when she passed away, but I have not been able to find it.

Miguel Angel also says that JR and Marshall knew each other, but doubts a 'great and dear' friendship between them. Yet Ros wrote that it was Marshall who convinced him that playing chess was more important than his scholarship and got him to San Sebastian (Miguel Angel also doubts the latter).

Shortly after JR began visiting the Manhattan Chess Club some articles appeared in a New York newspaper about a Cuban chess whiz kid at the club, which filtered to Pelayo, who maintained an office in New York. Plus a letter that JR wrote to his mother and another to Pelayo got in each other's envelope and in this manner he spilled the beans!! Pelayo then gave JR an ultimatum. JR asked him for a month to decide and consulted Marshall. Marshall then was the one who convinced JR that his chess career was more important… And you know the rest. Marshall's insistence on JR playing at San Sebastian and of course JR's brilliance there was what propelled his career. The School of Engineering at Columbia had a building named after JR.

Another factoid. The night of the stroke at the MCC, they were playing 'pinochle', *not* chess.

Rafael R. Palacios,
Miami, FL, USA

View from the edge

Notwithstanding all the razzmatazz about the Moscow tournament in New In Chess 2012/5, the fact remains that the most exciting player, McShane, was dumped in penultimate place, and the tournament winner, Carlsen, drew the most games.

Chess will always be in the doldrums as a spectator sport while a draw is given equal mathematical value to a decisive result. In fact, let us promulgate a new law: a win and a loss should always score more than two draws.
Using this formula, let us look at the Moscow event scoring it on the 3-1 system – 3 points for a win, 1 for a draw and zero for a loss.

Here we see a subtle alteration: Caruana ties first with Carlsen and even wins on tiebreak (on the basis of – he had less draws and more decisive results). Luke McShane moves up from next to last to 5th= place, and again wins the tiebreak.

It is no use asking chess masters what they think of the scoring system – they are tournament players, and neither spectators nor organizers. Bobby Fischer even elevated contempt for spectators to an art form, first exiling them from the tournament hall, and then refusing to play for 20 years. And who can forget Petrosian's remark from the 1960s – 'Grandmasters are not gladiators'?

If we are to elevate the game of chess to a popular sport, grandmasters *must* become gladiators, otherwise the game will languish on the periphery, a voice crying in the wilderness, condemned to live and die on a cold arctic shore.

Michael Basman
Chessington, United Kingdom

A product of your history

It would be great if some specialists identified moments in the history of chess where some event boosted the interest of the game worldwide. I guess most chess players would normally identify 1972 as one of those moments, but I'm honestly a product of 1992 – that is, the 2nd Fischer coming! I still remember when I finally convinced my father to buy the subscription to New In Chess and finally receiving my first issue (New In Chess 1993/4, where in the cover you had a young Kramnik and the first article was about Karpov winning Dortmund in what was to become a period parallel to Capablanca's 1936, with wins for Tolya in Madrid, Wijk aan Zee, León, Tilburg and Linares!

The arrival of each issue was a big anxiety for me as a teenager who had missed the K-K world championship matches but had been lucky enough to see Fischer come back and witness the last moments of tension of the Karpov-Kasparov rivalry, when none other than Jan Timman (New In Chess 1995/3) had assured us that Karpov's latest spurt had clearly put him yet again in contention with Kasparov. Unfortunately for me, Las Palmas 1996 would seal the deal, with Karpov arriving last.

All of these reflections are about wondering, how do youngsters nowadays feel when they enter chess? What role does history play? Is the dry database becoming a substitute for the amazing history of the game? Well, at the end the ultimate answer does not matter, given that I can confidently say I am a product of your history!

Ian J. Seda-Irizarry
Lewisburg, PA, USA

COLOPHON

PUBLISHER: Allard Hoogland
EDITORS-IN-CHIEF:
Dirk Jan ten Geuzendam, Jan Timman
EDITORS: Peter Boel, René Olthof
ART-DIRECTION: Jan Scholtus
PRODUCTION: Joop de Groot
TRANSLATORS:
Sarah Hurst, Ken Neat, Piet Verhagen
SALES AND ADVERTISING: Casper Pieters

© No part of this magazine may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system or transmitted in any form or by any means, recording or otherwise, without the prior permission of the publisher.

NEW IN CHESS
P.O. BOX 1093
1810 KB ALKMAAR
THE NETHERLANDS

PHONE: 00-31-(0)72-51 27 137
FAX: 00-31-(0)72-51 58 234
E-MAIL:
SUBSCRIPTIONS: nic@newinchess.com
EDITORS: editors@newinchess.com
SALES AND ADVERTISING:
casper.pieters@newinchess.com

BANK DETAILS:
IBAN: NL41ABNA 0589126024
BIC: ABNANL2A in favour of Interchess BV, Alkmaar, The Netherlands

WWW.NEWINCHESS.COM

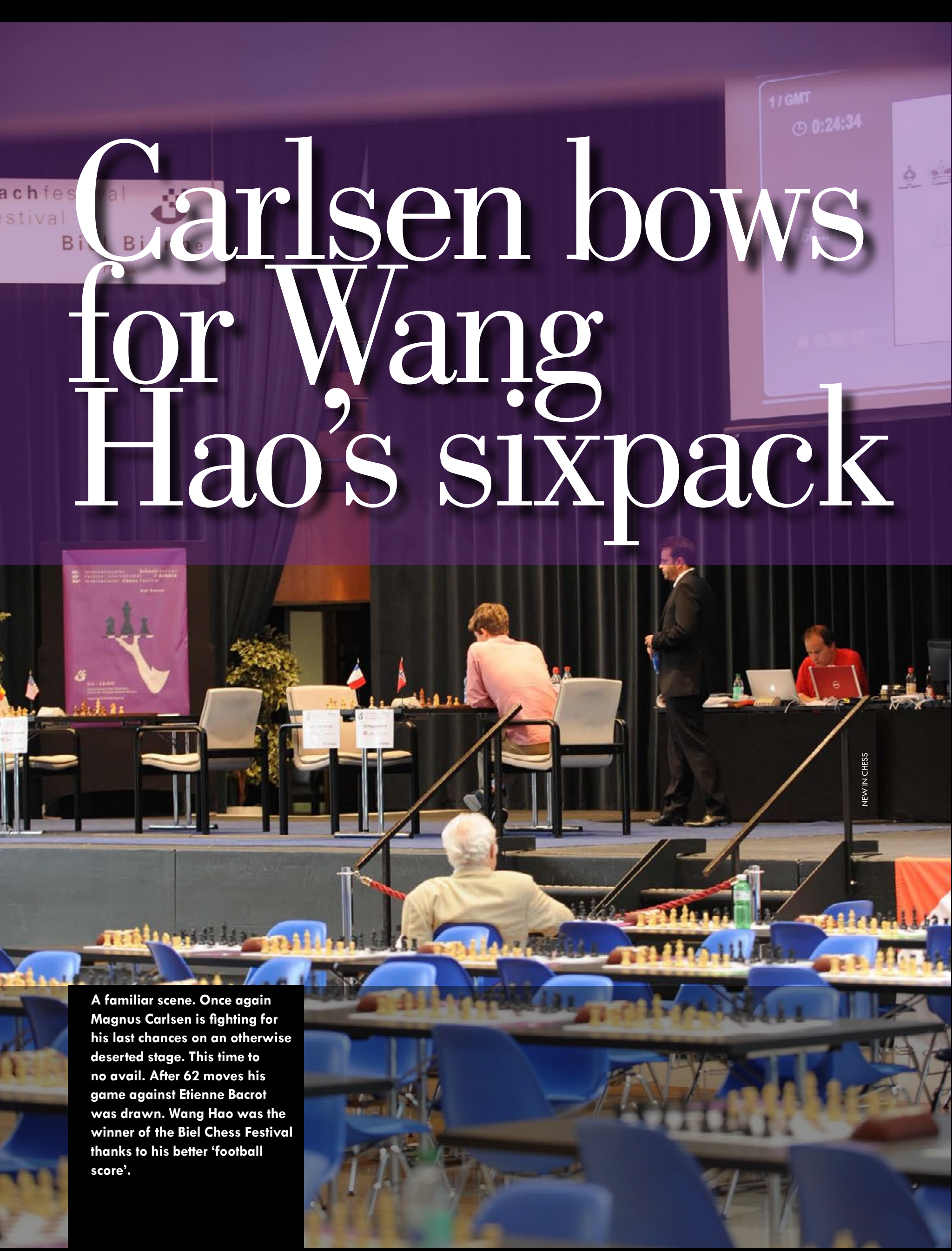
BORIS DOLMATOVSKY

Moscow, 1993. Nine-year-old Alexandra Kosteniuk suggests a move watched by her father and first trainer Konstantin and her sister Oxana. Little could they know then what their efforts would lead to. This August, in 'the Age Issue' of Vogue, Alexandra was pictured together with her own daughter Francesca in a special feature on 'Wonder Women from 28 to 101'. The leading fashion and lifestyle magazine presented her as 'challenging stereotypes at 28'. 'Alexandra Kosteniuk shows that chess can be chic. With winning style and well-honed focus, the former world champion is making it her mission to get girls on the board.'

Getting Girls on the Board

CHALLENGING STEREOTYPES AT 28
GAME ON
Alexandra Kosteniuk shows that chess can be chic. With winning style and well-honed focus, the former world champion is making it her mission to get girls on the board.
By Rebecca Johnson.
Photographed by Ralph Mecke.
VOGUE
THE AGE ISSUE
WONDER WOMEN
FROM 28 TO 101
A WOMAN IN FULL
MARION COTILLARD
126
REAL-LIFE LOOKS FOR EVERYONE

Carlsen bows for Wang Hao's sixpack



A familiar scene. Once again Magnus Carlsen is fighting for his last chances on an otherwise deserted stage. This time to no avail. After 62 moves his game against Etienne Bacrot was drawn. Wang Hao was the winner of the Biel Chess Festival thanks to his better 'football score'.

The Biel Chess Festival celebrated its 45th anniversary with exceptional twists and turns and a wealth of fighting chess. Two thirds(!) of the games ended in decisions and there were several historical firsts. After two rounds Victor Bologan replaced Alexander Morozevich, who was too ill to continue, and chivalrously took the two losses the Russian had already suffered into the bargain. After 10 rounds the football scoring system produced a sensational winner. Normally speaking, Magnus Carlsen's four wins and six draws would have been enough for the Norwegian to defend his title. However, with wins counting for three points, Wang Hao's six wins, three losses (two against Carlsen!) and one draw resulted in one of the finest tournament victories in the young Chinese player's career.
The epilogue was one of sadness. One week later the fine memories of the jubilee edition were clouded by the tragic death of organizer Olivier Breisacher.

Dirk Jan ten Geuzendam

On the day after one of the most eventful editions of the grandmaster group has come to an unprecedented end, the players are invited to lunch. The weather in Biel continues to be beautiful, and the atmosphere in the garden of the Italian restaurant that Olivier Breisacher and Peter Bohnenblust have picked to entertain their guests is light-hearted and jovial. On various phones the results of the last round of the Open, which is still in progress, are followed, accompanied by quips and witticisms. When your work is done, it's pleasant to see others still sweating. Olivier Breisacher has a central place at the table and in his unassuming manner he makes sure that everyone feels at ease and is served with food and drinks. As a sports journalist with broad international experience he has many stories to tell, and besides the games in the Open he is keeping a close eye on the semi-finals of the Olympic tennis tournament, where his hero Roger Federer is fighting for a place in the final. With a couple of Nadal and Djokovic fans present animated discussions inevitably follow. All players in the GM Group have come, except for Victor Bologan, who is already on his way home, and Magnus Carlsen, who has not yet woken up or is in the process of doing so. Of the others, Wang Hao, Anish Giri and Etienne Bacrot listen in amusement

BIEL CHESS FESTIVAL

Olivier Breisacher interviews Magnus Carlsen. One week after the successful 45th edition, the cornerstone of the Biel Festival would tragically die on a vacation in Mallorca.

as Hikaru Nakamura explains his express wish that Federer will not win the Olympics. For him the Swiss giant is too smooth, too perfect. Olivier of course disagrees, and points out in further detail why Federer is the greatest sportsman he knows. He does so with a smile and in good humour. We are enjoying the moment, after all.

With the sun playing on the trees and the sounds of knives, forks and glasses gently accompanying the table talk, it is unimaginable that one week later Olivier Breisacher will be dead, drowned on a vacation in Mallorca. A cruel and severe blow for the Biel Festival and a big loss for the international chess community. And more in particular a tragic loss for the many friends he made at his tournament, with his gentle but determined demeanour, his organizing talent and his great love for sports and chess.

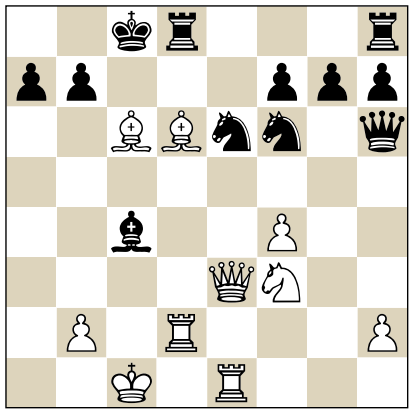
As Magnus Carlsen commented when I spoke to him on the day the news was broken: 'This is very sad. Olivier was always so great to me and my family. He was definitely one of the best and most professional organizers I know. I think he was a huge part of the reason that I and several other people kept coming back to Biel.'

Getting Magnus Carlsen back to Biel was one of the last accomplishments of an organizer, who was an expert in improvising and finding solutions for problems that seemingly could not be solved within the budget of the Biel tournament. It was no secret that Breisacher wanted Carlsen to come to Biel for the jubilee tournament. He also knew only too well that the world's Number 1 comes with a price tag. Everything he and his colleagues could think of was tried, but in the end they had to acknowledge that it simply was not on the cards. For the last spot in the top group Leinier Dominguez was invited.

What exactly happened in the weeks leading up to the festival, Breisacher didn't want to reveal. 'One day I will tell you. For the moment let's say that we found a satisfactory solution for us, for Magnus and for our budget.' For Carlsen this also was a most welcome development. After the cancellation of the tournament in Bazna he was looking for a classical event to play in, and his wish to return to Biel had only grown. The last obstacles were removed smoothly. Dominguez was financially compensated and graciously accepted the invitation for next year's top group.

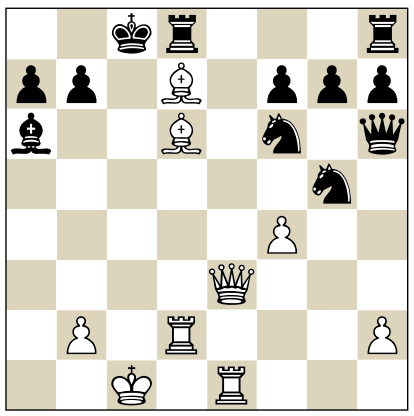
And so Biel had a dream field with Carlsen, three-time winner Morozevich, American champion Nakamura, six-time French champion Bacrot, China's number one Wang Hao and Dutch champion Anish Giri. A field that once again illustrated the organizers' wish for attractive chess, a mix of recognized top players and rising stars, and geographical diversity.

They lived up to expectations right from the start. Both Rounds 1 and 2 saw two decisions in three games. The main victim was Alexander Morozevich. In the first round the Russian went astray in a wild tactical skirmish against Giri, the next day he threw caution to the winds against Bacrot.



Bacrot-Morozevich
position after 21.♗xc6

In this explosive position, Black should have resigned himself to a draw by perpetual check after 21... bxc6 22.♕xa7 ♖xd6 23.♕a8+ etc. Morozevich was looking for adventure and was punished severely for his gamble. **21...♗a6? 22.♘g5!** Isolating the queen, and 22...♖xd6 23.♖xd6 bxc6 now runs into 24.♘xf7, and Black's position is hopeless. **22...♘xg5 23.♗d7+!**



A most elegant way to finish the game. Black is going to be mated. **23...♔xd7 24.♕e7+ ♔c6 25.♕c7+** And Morozevich resigned.

Because of Morozevich's withdrawal various observers opined that his first two games had made it clear that something was wrong with him. This opinion was certainly not shared by all the GMs in Biel. Morozevich is often an erratic player who can strike back after a couple of losses. According to Anish Giri, his opponent wasn't playing the best moves at a certain point because he wanted to give the Dutchman the chance to lose his way, a trap that he himself fell into. And what happened in the game against Bacrot could also be seen as an overenthusiastic attempt to keep playing for a win.

Be that as it may, when after his game against Bacrot, Morozevich told Breisacher that he felt ill and that the best solution would be for him to withdraw, no one doubted that he was serious. While trying to buy time by suggesting to Morozevich that he might postpone his final decision till next morning, Breisacher also took immediate action by calling Victor Bologan, who had been a candidate for this year's top group. What happened in the next 24 hours must have been a considerable strain on the organizers' nerves. For the next morning an appointment was made in the hospital of Biel for Morozevich, if only to get a certificate to show the other players. In the meantime, Bologan, who was enjoying a holiday in his summer house in Simferopol after the World Rapid and Blitz in Astana and the Turkish League, had spoken to his family and they had agreed that he should go to Biel and enjoy the adventure. The fact that he had to start with two losses was seen as a challenge. Around midnight he booked an air ticket and in the middle of the night he was driven to Kiev from where he would take a plane to Switzerland. At 2.45 p.m. he arrived at the railway station in Biel. Shortly before Bologan arrived, Morozevich, who indeed had been told by the doctor that examined him that he'd better go home, had met with the other players and explained the situation. In fact, Bologan had even agreed to play that same afternoon, but his opponent, Carlsen, had declined that offer: 'I thought that would be wrong for him to play on the same day he arrived. I don't like to play against people who I feel cannot show their best. That's a very difficult psychological position to be in.' They agreed to play their game on the free day after Round 6, in a room in the Mercure hotel.

> 'By that time Bologan's adventure had turned into a bit of a nightmare.'

By that time Bologan's adventure had turned into a bit of a nightmare. Burdened with the two losses inherited from Morozevich he had suffered three further defeats and still languished at zero points. His best chance he got in the first game he played against Nakamura, but instead of exploiting his chances in the endgame, he had let himself get caught in a mating net. That game lasted 81 moves and brought it home to him how tired he still was after the Turkish League. His lack of energy also resulted in a loss against Carlsen. In the first hours nothing much was going on, but gradually Bologan collapsed under the pressure the Norwegian kept building with inventive manoeuvres.

While the spectators commiserated with the luckless Moldovan, his colleagues knew that he was now one of the most dangerous players in the tournament. At some point he would wake up and show his true colours; it was bound to happen. And it did, in a crucial game in the penultimate round.

Before they played the game on the rest day, Magnus Carlsen was trailing Wang Hao by 6 points. Ironically, he had beaten the Chinese player in a good game, but that was his only win so far. Wang Hao, on the other hand, had won all his other

BIEL CHESS FESTIVAL

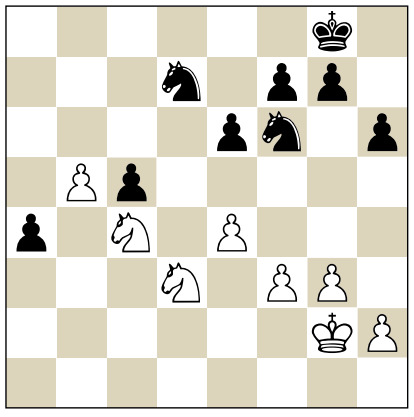
Victor Bologan and Magnus Carlsen played their postponed first game on the free day after Round 6. The Norwegian won and stayed within striking distance of early leader Wang Hao.

four games, against Bacrot, Nakamura, Giri and Bologan. An amazing streak. Although with typical self-criticism he wasn't too satisfied about the quality of his games, Wang Hao had quickly become one of the favourites. Inexorably he played for a win every day, both with black and white. He had to, he confessed, as he didn't want to get bored. As simple as that. In the end he would make one draw, in his game against Bacrot in Round 6, a game in which he admitted he saw no chance to complicate matters.

One football point behind the leader, Anish Giri followed in second place. The day before he came to Biel, he had won the Dutch championship with a sweeping 6 out of 7 ('classical counting') and he seemed to have brought his good form to Switzerland. Giri had lost one game, against Wang Hao, when he forgot his opening preparation and was run over by unstoppable black troops, but compensated for this loss with his defeat of Morozevich in Round 1 and good wins over Bacrot and Bologan. Against Bacrot he showed excellent opening preparation, against Bologan he showed what he is capable of if he gets a position that he feels at home in. 'After 10 moves my estimate of the position was that I was going to win very smoothly. And I looked at the evaluation of the computer and it was equal, 0.00! But there are some positions that I can play without thinking and very well.'

Just like Wang Hao, Carlsen was also fighting for the maximum, both with white and black. That's what he sees as his duty and that's what he does, day in and day out. Wang Hao's explosive start had impressed him. Which didn't mean that it had made him nervous. 'I prefer leading but I saw enough possibilities. I had a game left against Wang Hao and I know I am capable of notching a few wins in a short time if the circumstances are right.'

That game came immediately after he had won the game in hand against Bologan. In the end Carlsen got more than he could have hoped for during most of the afternoon.



Wang Hao-Carlsen
position after 45...a4

With an ill-considered knight manoeuvre in the early middlegame, Carlsen had gotten himself into some trouble. At this point White still has an edge, but Wang Hao didn't believe his advantage to be of any real significance, just 'a bit annoying'. The ta-

UT DALLAS

CHESS AND YOUR EDUCATION.
TAKEN SERIOUSLY.

If you're serious about playing chess at an American university, we want to hear from you. The University of Texas at Dallas offers highly competitive scholarships to master-level players.

Located in one of the United States' most populated metropolitan areas, UT Dallas offers more than 130 degree programs, with strengths in engineering, computer science, business and physical sciences. More than 19,000 students who attend our University enjoy the benefits of a growing institution committed to interdisciplinary study and innovation.

Interested in studying at a university that takes chess and your education seriously? Contact Program Director Jim Stallings (james.stallings@utdallas.edu) one year in advance of your intended fall enrollment date.

utdallas.edu/chess

The University of Texas at Dallas

Olivier Breisacher in a one-on-one interview with his idol Roger Federer.

Getting chess in the news

Olivier Breisacher (1968-2012)

The news came as a shock for all of us. Olivier Breisacher, who had just closed the 45th Chess Festival, has died. Spending a vacation in Mallorca, he suffered a swimming accident. Attempts to save his life and bring him back to Geneva Hospital were in vain. He was 44 years old.

Olivier grew up in Biel, where he earned his high-school diploma. He then moved to Geneva and graduated from the Institute of International Studies. He started working as a freelance journalist, and later managed to combine his job with his passion for sports and became a sports journalist at the *Tribune de Genève*. Hardly any detail would escape his attention, so that many who worked with him described him as a walking encyclopaedia. He travelled around the world to cover great sports events and had specialized in ice hockey, football and tennis. His idol was Roger Federer, with whom he made several one-on-one interviews. He was one of the few who predicted that Federer would win at least one more Grand Slam and become the world's No 1 again. He showed great determination in all he undertook. This characteristic probably helped him overcome cancer, which had hit him many years ago.

Olivier's relation to chess started way back in his youth. As a schoolboy he went to the Biel chess club and practised what remained for him a hobby. He was already a regular when I joined the club at eight years of age. It came as no surprise that he won most of our games. When, much later at the Festival, GMs asked him whether he played chess, he would often answer with a smile that he had a positive score against me!

Olivier first started working at the Chess Festival as a press officer in the era of Hans Suri. When the great man retired after 1997, a new team needed to be built. Olivier joined Peter Burri and Peter Bohnenblust. He would initially take care of the media as well as contact strong players for the main event. Yet his duties would eventually grow and extend to other fields. Olivier always stressed the importance of staging an attractive closed tournament alongside the numerous opens. The word 'attractive' stands out here. Fighting spirit and the endeavour to play nice games were qualities Olivier cherished in a chess player. This is how Alexander Morozevich naturally became a star in Biel. Additionally, rather than try and reach the highest possible category, the emphasis was on gathering players who would attract media outside the chess world. This often translated into inviting at least one young star. In 2005, Biel welcomed a young Norwegian GM who seemed to have a bright future. When Magnus Carlsen later became No 1 in the world rankings, Olivier told me: 'We've been lucky to have had Magnus for four consecutive years! But this will not be possible any more, he's simply too high.' How happy he must have felt to be proven wrong, when Carlsen gladly came back to Biel in 2011! Indeed, he and his team had turned the Chess Festival into something unique.

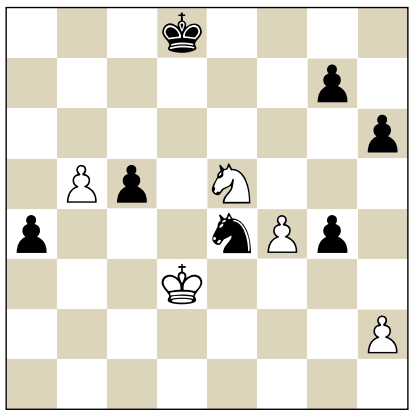
With so many chess festivals under his belt, Olivier had many stories to tell. He said he might even write a book one day. One of his favourite anecdotes was the following short episode: Several years ago, a journalist called in late in order to inquire about the result of the last game of the day in the closed tournament. Olivier answered that White had won. To which the journalist retorted with the obvious question: 'Thanks, but what was the score?'

The last time I saw Olivier was on the final evening of the festival. We were sitting in the lobby of the Mercure Hotel. When I decided to go, he shouted his traditional 'So! See you next year!'

I know your soul will be there.

Yannick Pelletier

bles were turned dramatically after his next move, which is a clear oversight. **46.♘db2?** His opponent had expected 46.b6 a3 47.♘c1 ♔f8 48.b7 ♔e7 49.♘xa3, 'and it seemed to me that this would be sufficient for a draw' – Carlsen. **46...♘b6!** A devilish knight manoeuvre. Obviously the black stallion cannot be captured, as the a-pawn would be unstoppable. But the a-pawn becomes a significant force anyway. 'Now it's very difficult for him' – Carlsen. **47.♔f2 ♘fd7 48.♔e3 ♔f8 49.f4 f5** Getting squares both for his knight and king. **50.exf5 exf5 51.♔d3 ♔e7 52.♘a3 ♘f6** A good move to get the knight to e4. **53.♘bc4 ♘xc4 54.♘xc4 ♘e4 55.♘e5 ♔d8 56.g4 fxg4!**



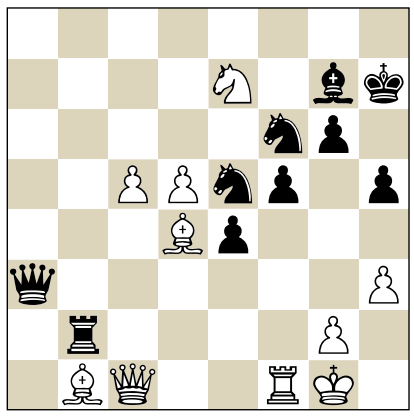
Of course the knight is untouchable because of the rapid runner on the a-file. **57.♘xg4 ♘d6** Now everything is under control. **58.b6 ♔c8 59.♘e3 ♔b7 60.♘d5 ♔c6** White resigned.

Round 8 provided further proof that Carlsen, Giri and Wang Hao were setting the pace in Biel. All three won, but the way they achieved their goals were quite different and seemed to turn the Norwegian into the clear favourite for final victory. His second win against Bologan was one of his cleanest efforts. With meticulous play he kept pressure against Black's Benko Gambit and reaped in the endgame. 'I don't think there is a clear refutation (of the Benko), but I think I managed to cause Black some serious problems.'

Both Giri and Wang Hao could count themselves lucky. The Dutchman saw Etienne Bacrot, who was in horrible form in Biel, fall apart completely in time-trouble. Wang Hao was again worse against Nakamura, but was again awarded with the full point. 'I played badly, but he played even worse', was the laconic comment of the shared tournament leader.

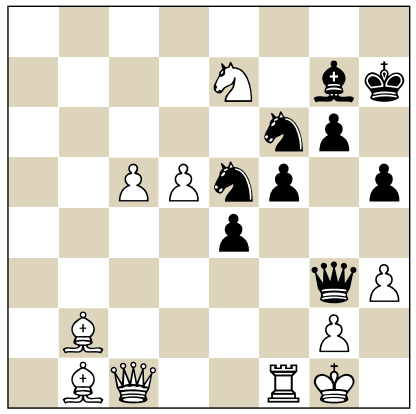
> Hikaru Nakamura: 'My goal is to get to 2800 by the end of the year.'

The last round but one finally saw what many had expected to happen sooner or later: Victor Bologan won a game and the victim was one of the leaders, Wang Hao. While Giri steered clear of any sort of risk and secured a solid draw against Carlsen, Wang Hao opted for a risky Najdorf and ended up in trouble. Still, his creativity when he was with his back against the wall was amazing. Even after the time-control, when most spectators were expecting the Chinese grandmaster to resign, he conjured up counterplay that required the utmost precision from his opponent.

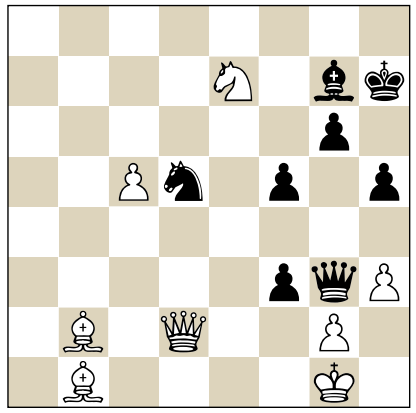


Bologan-Wang Hao
position after 42.♗d4

With two pieces hanging Black looks completely lost. Wang Hao comes up with some inspired last-ditch actions. **42...♕g3 43.♗xb2**



Only this one. 43.♕xb2 leads to a draw after 43...♘fg4! 44.hxg4 ♘f3+! 45.♖xf3 exf3 46.♔f1 (46.♗xg7 ♕e1+ is a perpetual) 46...♗xd4. **43...♘f3+** After 43...♗h6 44.♗xe5 ♕xe5 45.♕c4 ♕xe7 46.d6 a race starts that White is going to win: 46...♕e5 47.♔h1 e3 48.c6 e2 49.♖e1 ♕g3 50.♕f7+ ♗g7 51.♖xe2 ♕xd6 52.♕c4. **44.♖xf3 exf3 45.♕d2** Only this one. Stopping the mate with 45.♕f1 doesn't work, as after 45...fxg2 46.♕xg2 ♕e1+ 47.♔h2 ♕xe7 48.d6 ♕e3 White won't be able to make any progress. **45...♘xd5**



A last desperate attempt that fails to the vulnerability of the black king. **46.♘xf5 f2+ 47.♔f1 ♕h2 48.♔xf2 ♗xb2 49.♕h6+** Black resigned.

Bologan was pleased with his win, but no more. 'Believe me, I am not delighted at all. One win cannot compensate for six losses.'

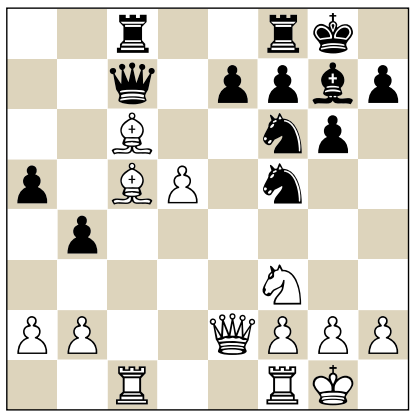
And so, with one round to go, Carlsen moved into the sole lead, one football point ahead of Giri and Wang Hao. The last round promised

Having made the first moves in his last-round game against Wang Hao, Anish Giri seems to sense that there is trouble ahead.

to be eventful and exciting, and it was. One of the winners was Hikaru Nakamura, who with back to back wins in the last two rounds caught up with Giri to share third place. His last win was a good game against the luckless Bologan. Had he won the two games he lost against Wang Hao from better positions, the American would have finished on top, but he was the first to dismiss that speculative theory. 'That very much depends on the luck factor. I very easily could have lost a game to Bologan or to Magnus earlier in the tournament, if I had won those games. It's a little bit hard to judge which games actually make the difference, you never know. If I beat Wang Hao, there is no saying that I am going to beat Bacrot the next round. Not because I was not going to try just as hard, but you never know how things are going to break. Sure, I would have liked to have performed better in those two games in the last 10 moves before the time-control, but it was still a pretty decent result.'

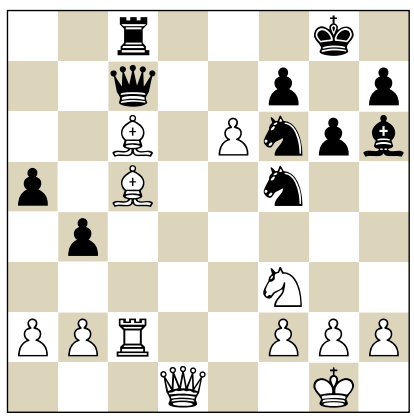
A decent result that seems to fit in with his current plans. 'I look at it like Vishy (Anand) or Levon (Aronian). It seems they somehow never win tournaments, they always just slowly pick up some rating points and they are just very solid. That's what in a way I am trying to do, just play solidly. As long as I do well and am consistent, the results will eventually come. It's nice to win, but ultimately does it matter if you win these tournaments or not if you want to become World Champion? I feel pretty good about my chess these days. My goal is to get to 2800 by the end of the year. If I keep doing what I am doing, make a few slight changes, don't make a couple of blunders here and there, I'd already be at 2800. I just have to be more consistent.'

Wang Hao and Anish Giri were paired against each other in the final round. They both had to win and hope that Carlsen would not get past Bacrot to win the tournament. Their game never got very exciting, as Wang Hao got an overwhelming advantage when once again Giri could not 'recall' his opening preparation. What happened can serve as a typical example of how deep opening preparation can work against a professional these days.



Wang Hao-Giri
position after 22.♗c5

After 22 moves the players have reached a position that they are both familiar with. Giri remembered that according to his notes, 22.♗c5 was a bad move. But he also remembered that Black has to be very precise. Positionally he is worse, exact computer moves are called for. But what was it again that he should play? Taking a fresh look he was first attracted to 22...♖fd8, but then he saw 23.♕a6, and Black cannot take, 23...♘xd5, because of 24.♗xd5 ♖xd5 25.♗e3. So then he started to calculate the unnatural-looking 22...♗h6; he was looking for a computer move after all. Despite trying hard he failed to come to a final verdict, but nevertheless decided to take the plunge: **22...♗h6** Only to find out pretty soon that White's next few moves leave him with a lost position. After the game the players found that 22...♖fd8 was indeed the right move, as after 23.♕a6 Black has the strong 23...♘d7!, when White has no choice than to retreat the queen, and after 24.♕e2 ♘xc5 25.♖xc5 ♖d6 Black is indeed better. **23.♖c2 ♖fd8 24.♖d1 e6 25.dxe6! ♖xd1+ 26.♕xd1**



26...fxe6 The bishop on c6 is badly poisoned: 26...♕xc6 27.exf7+ ♔h8 28.♗d4, and Black's position falls apart. But the position in the game is atrocious too. **27.♗a4 ♕d8 28.♕e2 ♘g7 29.♘e5 ♘e4 30.♘c6 ♖xc6 31.♗xc6 ♘xc5 32.♖xc5** Black resigned.

Despite this cold shower, Giri left Biel with a satisfied feeling. In his last two tournaments he had managed to repair the damage he did to his rating in recent months and had climbed back to a respectable position in the world rankings with a 2730 rating. More than anything else he was relieved that people would now

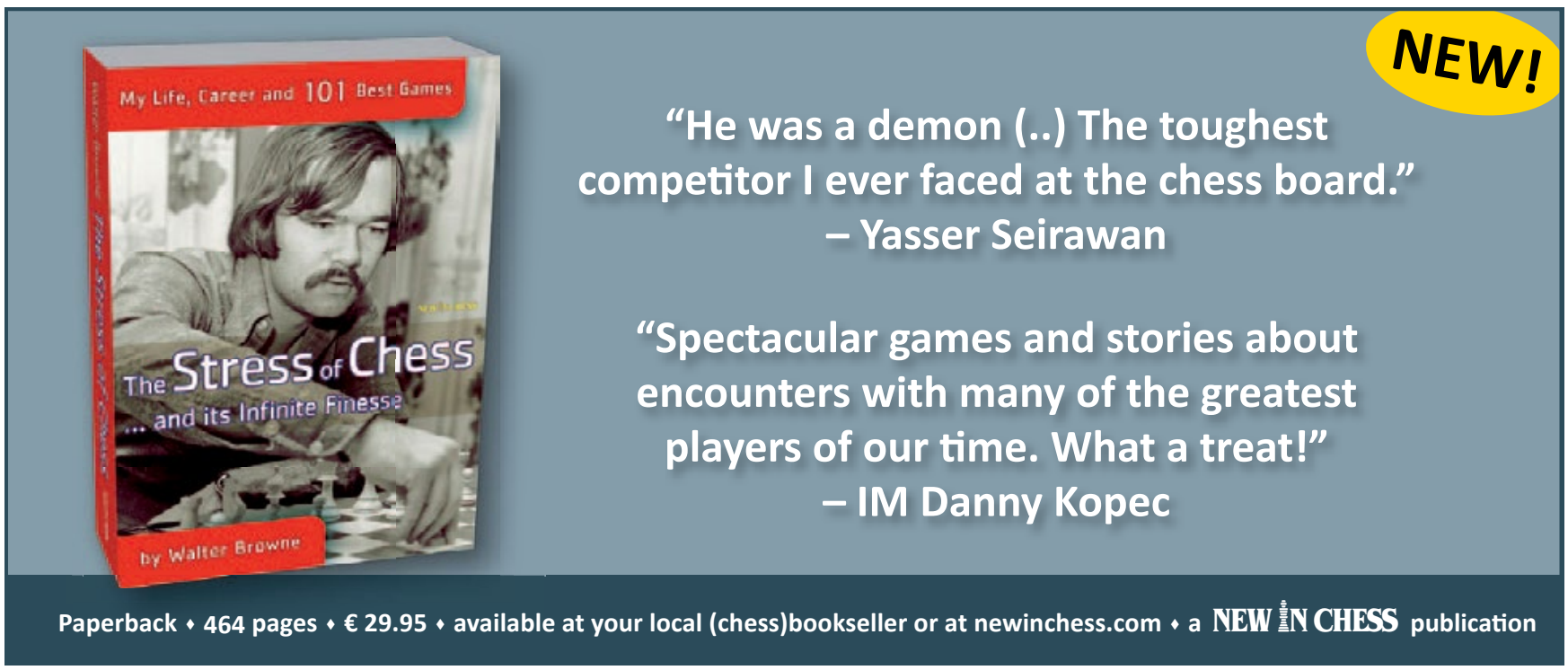
finally stop asking what was wrong with him in those months when he was shedding rating points. Well, almost, as I was also curious. 'I had a difficult period: a lot of school and at the same time a demanding chess schedule, and I wanted to prepare. All this together took a lot of energy and I kept being ambitious. In some games I tried to throw in some moves, hoping they would work, but they didn't. It was a combination of a lot of things. I decided to be smarter in some games. But this was not because of my previous bad form. This just comes with experience when you begin to find out what works better for you. Yes, I feel I am back on track. I don't have a particular target that I am working towards. Generally, if I play stable chess I should not lose too much rating points, only gain more. But I just want to play good chess like I did in the last two tournaments. Play like I used to play, without blundering, without unforced errors.'

That sounds easier said than done. The next school year, his final year, is going to be busy, while at the same time his chess schedule will be tough, too, especially if he is also going to play the Grand Prix. He read about his participation in the official announcement and is ready to play, but so far he has not received a formal invitation. About his plans once he has finished school he has fewer doubts. For 'a year or two' he wants to try and find out if the life of a chess professional suits him.

After Wang Hao's win Carlsen was once again left with a task that he's become a specialist in. Again he had to win his last game to claim the tournament. But this time things were different. In the classical scoring system a draw would have been enough to take clear first place. Now he needed a win because of the mass of points Wang Hao had collected with his six wins in the football scoring system. True to his nature, the Norwegian sat down behind the white pieces for a long game against Etienne Bacrot. Once again he was the last one to be on stage at the end of the tournament, fighting for his last chance. He tried, got some chances, was also worse for a while, but in the end, after more than six hours of play and 62 moves, he had to accept the draw that was not enough.

> 'Essentially this is a really unique case. Which is that two wins are better than five draws.'

Looking back, Carlsen was nevertheless reasonably satisfied. 'I thought I played OK, no more. I just wasn't lucky enough at the end.' Of course there was some consolation. He had remained unbeaten, raised his rating to 2842, only 9 points shy of Kasparov's all-time high, and defeated Wang Hao twice. He saw no reason to complain about the system, but he did make a useful comment, rejecting the comparison with the 2010 London Chess Classic, where the football scoring system helped him to be outright winner. 'In London I won it outright, while in a classical scoring system I would have been equal. In that sense it was just a tiebreaker, the higher number of wins. I guess that when someone scores plus four and someone scores plus three and the guy with plus three wins, it's a different situation entirely. Essentially this is a really unique case. Which is that two wins are better than five draws. But everyone knew the system was there and Wang Hao won six games out of 10, which is just an incredible achievement. He played very well.'


NEW!
My Life, Career and 101 Best Games
The Stress of Chess
... and its Infinite Finesse
by Walter Browne
"He was a demon (..) The toughest competitor I ever faced at the chess board."
– Yasser Seirawan
"Spectacular games and stories about encounters with many of the greatest players of our time. What a treat!"
– IM Danny Kopec
Paperback • 464 pages • € 29.95 • available at your local (chess)bookseller or at newinchess.com • a NEW IN CHESS publication

NOTES BY
Wang Hao

KI 35.10 – E84
Anish Giri
Wang Hao
Biel 2012 (4)

Before this game I tried to find a way with two effects: surprising my opponent and making the game exciting. But I was confused after looking at all the analysis I had done before the tournament, as Anish is a solid player and it's really difficult to fight for three points against him as Black. Then I said to myself, don't worry, just make your moves and everything will be OK. And I quickly finished my preparation ☺.

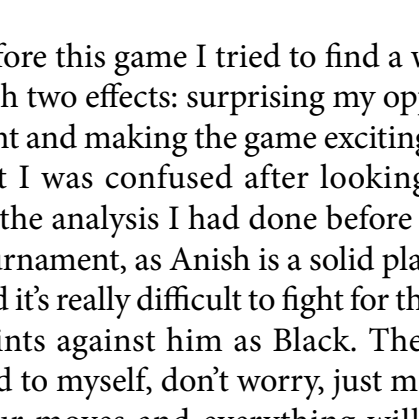
1.d4 ♘f6 2.c4 g6 3.♘c3 ♗g7

Well, the King's Indian! I thought this would surprise my opponent very much, as he had just beaten Bacrot in the previous round with this opening, and of course, everything he played was well-prepared. But it is an interesting challenge, isn't it?

4.e4 d6 5.f3

My opponent wisely avoided a repeat of the Classical Variation, which led to a victory in his last game. So I had to face my beloved Sämisch Variation with black! However, I had no fears, as I myself am also an expert.

5...0-0 6.♗e3 ♘c6 7.♘ge2 a6 8.♕d2 ♖b8



The Panno Variation, more risky for Black compared to 6...c5, but very interesting.

9.♖c1

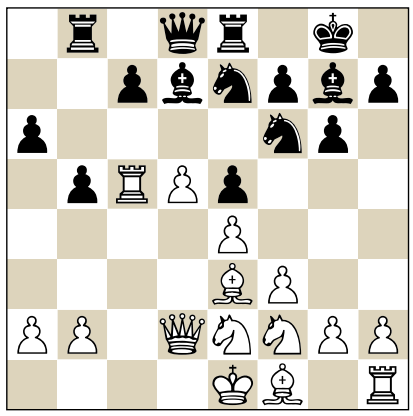
The most popular reply, but somehow I hadn't analysed it well ☺. I have played both 9.h4 and 9.♘c1 with white, with two wins.

9...♗d7

9...e6 is probably the best choice here, which led to high-level games by Grischuk in 2009. But I believe the text-move is more interesting.

10.♘d1 ♖e8 11.♘f2 b5 12.c5 dxc5 13.♖xc5 e5 14.d5 ♘e7

Honestly, I did not know very much about this line. I just knew an interesting game played by Caruana and Jones, including some analysis I did several years ago. Now Black wants to play ...c6 in order to free his position, and the d-pawn will fall if he goes d6.



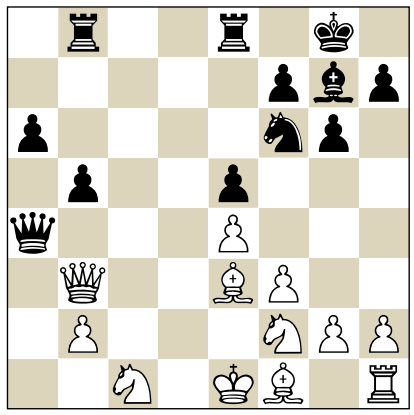
15.g3?

I had not really expected this move, but this is an obvious sign that my opponent had already forgotten his analysis, as this move is not really trying to stop Black's plan.

After the game Anish told me that he had indeed forgotten his analysis, and he was just trying to make a simple move and keep the position balanced. Well, he unfortunately underestimated my counterplay after the queen swap.

15.♘d3 was what Caruana played in Plovdiv this year, which leads to complications that favour Black.

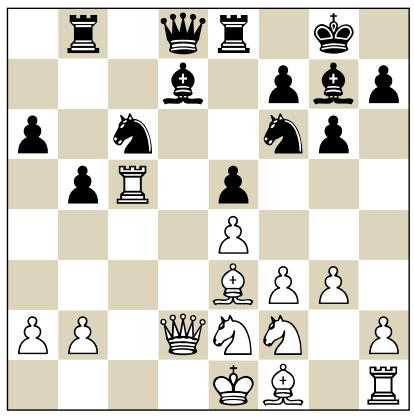
15.♕c1 is the critical line, which should be tested in top tournaments. Actually, what I knew about this line was only 15...c6 16.dxc6 ♘xc6 17.♖xc6 ♗xc6 18.♕xc6 ♕a5+ 19.♕c3 ♕xa2, and Black's position is playable. I have to say that White is only slightly better after 20.♘c1 ♕a4 21.♕b3



ANALYSIS DIAGRAM

although it's still not so easy to equalize for Black as long as he can't eliminate White's dark-squared bishop. Still, this line is not that simple, is it? ☺

15...c6 16.dxc6 ♘xc6

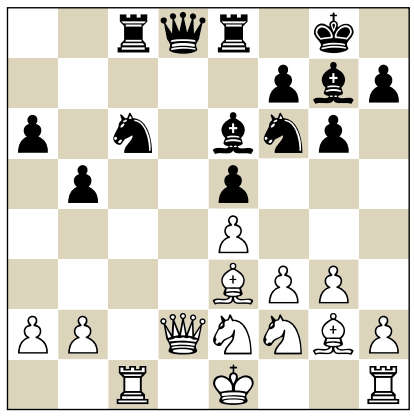


Now Black(!) is slightly better, as his pieces are active and White is behind in development.

17.♖c1 ♖c8

17...♕a5 is passive – White holds easily after 18.♕xa5 ♘xa5 19.b3.

18.♗g2 ♗e6

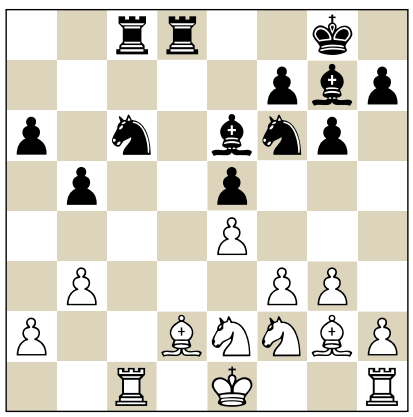


19.b3

My Houdini suggests 19.♕xd8 ♖exd8 20.0-0, but after 20...♗xa2 21.♗h3 ♗e6 22.♗xe6 fxe6 White is a pawn down and has no clear counterplay.

19...♕xd2+ 20.♗xd2 ♖ed8

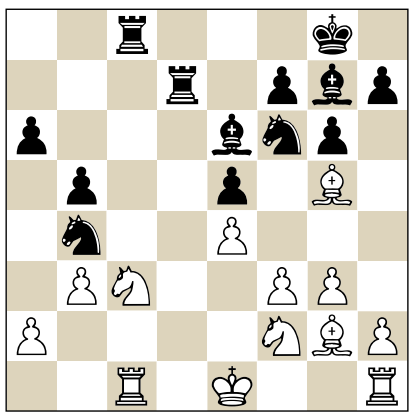
Wang Hao: 'I said to myself, don't worry, just make your moves and everything will be OK. And I quickly finished my preparation ☺.'



21.♗g5 21.♖d1 was probably better, intending to keep the bishop on d2 and protect the dark squares on the queenside. But it's passive and really not easy to play during the game.

21...♘b4 22.♘c3 ♖d7

I was trying to double my rooks on the c-file, but 22...♖c7 was more precise. If 23.0-0 then 23...h6 is strong.



23.♔e2?

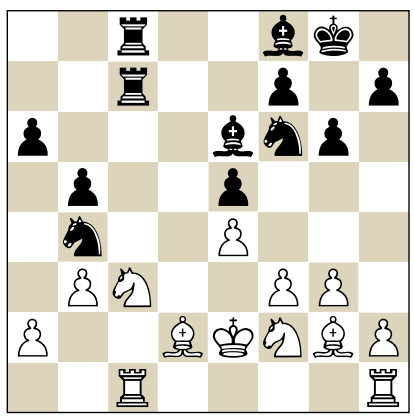
White should have played 23.0-0! to keep the king on the kingside.

After 23...♖dc7 (Black also has an edge after 23...h6 24.♗xf6 ♗xf6 25.♘d5 ♖xc1 26.♘xf6+ ♔g7 27.♖xc1 ♔xf6 28.a3) 24.♖fd1 h6 25.♗d2 ♗f8 Black maintains the pressure, but White still holds on.

23...♖dc7 24.♗d2

24.♘d3 will be met by 24...♘xa2 25.♘xa2 ♖c2+ 26.♗d2 ♖xa2 27.♖xc8+ ♗xc8, and Black is a pawn up.

24...♗f8

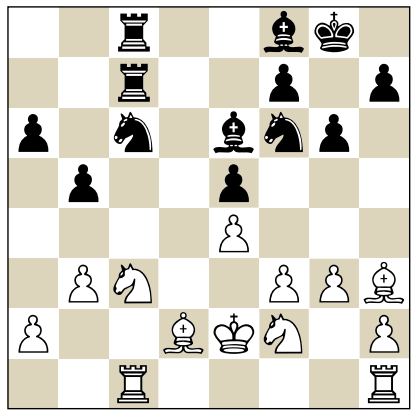


Now Black has a large advantage. He has the idea of ...♗c5-d4, which cannot be stopped, and White's defence will soon be breached.

25.♗h3

If 25.f4 exf4 26.gxf4 ♘g4, White will face serious tactical problems.

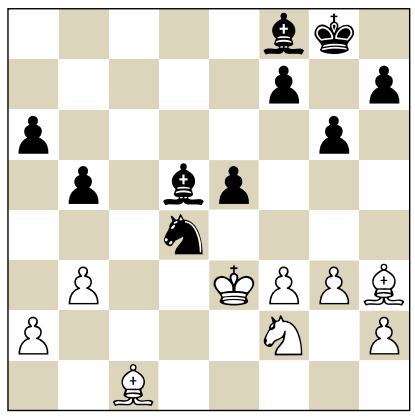
25...♘c6!



26.♘d5

White also collapses after 26.♗xe6 ♘d4+ 27.♔e3 fxe6 28.♘b1 ♖f7!.

26...♘xd5 27.exd5 ♘d4+ 28.♔e3 ♖xc1 29.♖xc1 ♖xc1 30.♗xc1 ♗xd5



Now, with a healthy pawn up and more actively placed pieces, Black is completely winning. The rest is quite simple for our dear readers ☺.

31.♘e4 ♗g7 32.g4 f5 33.gxf5 gxf5 34.♘d2 ♔f7 35.♗b2 ♔g6 36.♗g2 ♘e6 37.♔f2 ♔f6 38.a4 ♗f8 39.axb5 axb5 40.♗f1 ♗b4

Slowly but inexorably Black improves his position.

41.♘b1 ♗c5+ 42.♔g3 ♗d4 43.♗xd4 ♘xd4 44.♘c3 ♗xf3

This exchange nets Black an extra pawn.

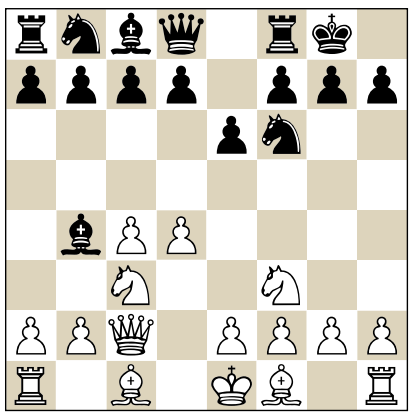
45.♘xb5 f4+ 46.♔f2 ♘xb5 47.♔xf3 ♘d4+ 48.♔g4 ♘xb3 49.♗d3 h6 50.♗b5 ♘d2 51.♗c6 ♔e6 52.♗b7 ♔d6 53.h4 ♔c5 54.♔h5 f3 55.♔xh6 e4 56.h5 f2 57.♗a6 ♘c4

White resigned.

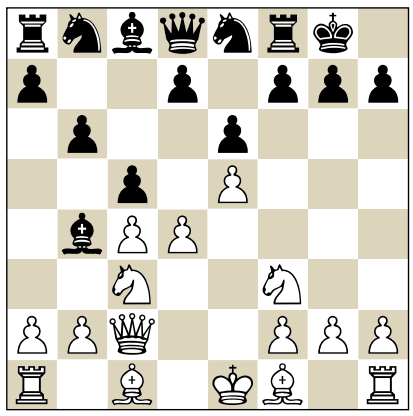
NOTES BY
Jan Timman

NI 24.15 – E32
Magnus Carlsen
Wang Hao
Biel 2012 (2)

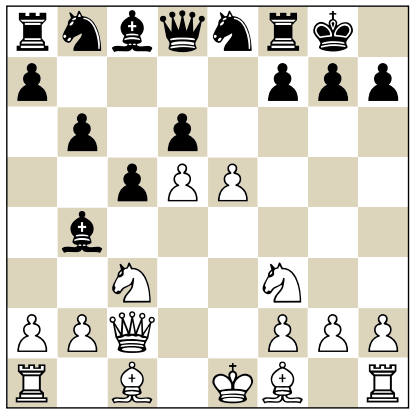
1.d4 ♘f6 2.c4 e6 3.♘c3 ♗b4 4.♕c2 0-0 5.♘f3



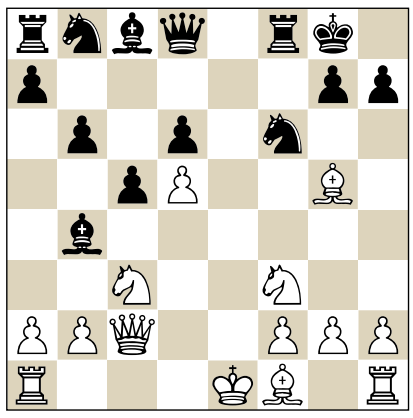
5...b6
About this continuation Carlsen later said: 'He played this move, which I have believed for 10 years to be a mistake, instantly.' Then he suggested it might have been a Fingerfehler. Yet the text has been played by grandmasters like Tukmakov and Onischuk, albeit with little success. I can't imagine it having been a Fingerfehler, but I do agree with Carlsen that it's a very bad move.
Curious: the old theory roundly rejects the immediate 4...b6, before castling. I have an opening book by Euwe about the Nimzo-Indian from 1952. Euwe gives 4...b6 a question mark and observes: 'This move militates against the primary goal of the Nimzo-Indian: preventing the advance e4, at least in this early stage.' A correct assessment, I think. But Black's situation gets even more worrisome after inserting the moves 4...0-0 and 5.♘f3. White has played a sound developing move, whereas Black has led his king into danger.
6.e4 c5
Tukmakov and Onischuk played 6...♗b7 here, with the point of 7.e5 ♘e4 8.♗d3 f5!, with counterplay. Correct is 7.♗d3, after which Black faces an uphill struggle.
7.e5 ♘e8



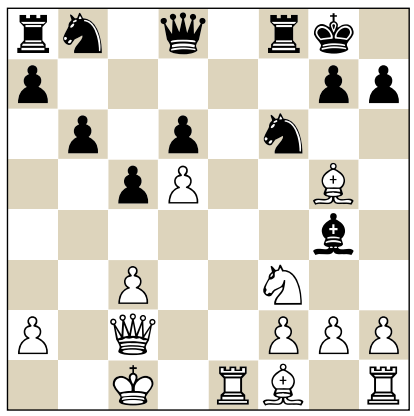
8.d5
Remarkably enough, Carlsen neglects to try and refute the black set-up immediately. 8.♗d3 seems very strong, intending to meet 8...h6 with 9.a3 ♗xc3+ 10.♕xc3, with a large advantage for White. After the text Black's set-up is more or less justified.
8...exd5 9.cxd5 d6 This yields Black sufficient counterpressure in the centre.



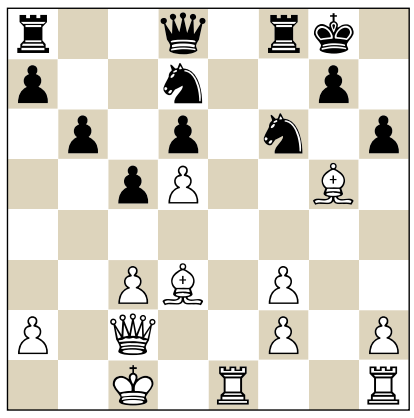
10.♗g5
Carlsen had initially planned to play 10.♘g5 here, but after 10...g6 11.h4 dxe5 (or 11...♕e7) he did not see a clear continuation of the attack.
10...f6 11.exf6 ♘xf6



12.0-0-0
Sharpest and best. After 12.♗d3 ♕e7+ 13.♔f1 ♗a6 Black would have sufficient counterplay.
12...♗xc3 13.bxc3 ♗g4 14.♖e1
Unpinning the knight and occupying the only open file.

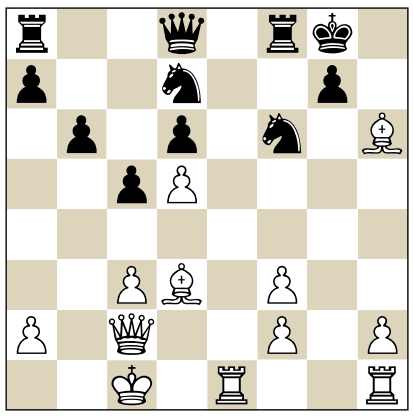


14...♗xf3
This exchange was sharply rejected by Bischoff, who commented on the game for the audience. It certainly looks dangerous to give White the half-open g-file to launch an attack along. On the other hand, the black position has a certain solidity that will help defend it. And Wang Hao had a good reason not to play 14...♘bd7, since White then has the strong move 15.♘h4!. 15...h6 then runs into the devastating 16.♗xh6, with a winning attack.
15.gxf3 ♘bd7 16.♗d3
An obvious developing move. But 16.♖g1, intending to meet 16...♔h8 with 17.♖e6, was certainly an alternative, after which Black would not have the counterplay as in the game.
16...h6
This looks extremely hazardous, but it just about works.



17.♗f4

Carlsen was very surprised to realize that the standard sacrifice 17.♗xh6 did not yield a winning attack by force.



ANALYSIS DIAGRAM

After 17...gxh6 18.♖hg1+ ♔h8 19.♕d2 ♖f7 20.♕xh6+ ♘h7 the attack falters. Carlsen looked mainly at 21.♖e6, after which Black has the following possibilities:

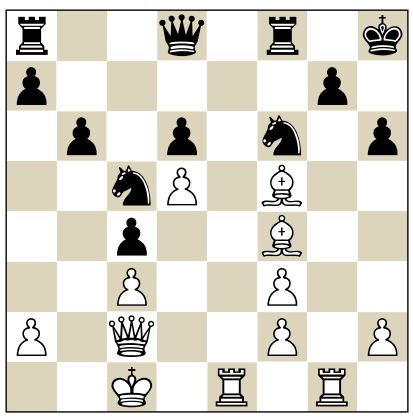
A) 21...♘e5? 22.♗xh7 ♖xh7 23.♖e8+! ♕xe8 24.♕f6+, and mate. An instructive combination;

B) 21...♕f8, and Black holds. This clearly shows the strength of the black defensive line at this point.

17...c4

A logical pawn sacrifice. Black wants to get the c5-square for his queen's knight. The alternative was 17...♘e8, which is slightly more passive.

18.♗f5 ♘c5 19.♖hg1 ♔h8

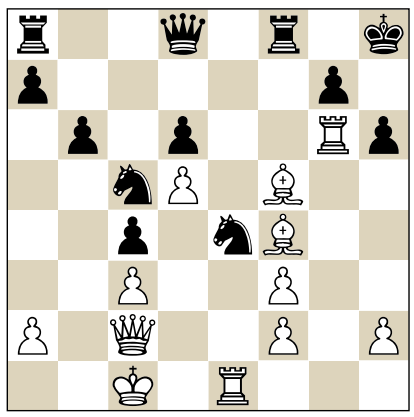


20.♖g6

White could again have sacrificed the bishop on h6. After 20.♗xh6 gxh6 21.♕d2, 21...♖f7? fails to 22.♕xh6+ ♘h7 23.♗xh7 ♖xh7 24.♖e8+ (the motif we saw before). But with 21...♕c7 Black can defend effectively.

20...♖f7

After playing his previous move Carlsen was shocked to suddenly see that Black had the surprising move 20...♘fe4!?. On further consideration this knight sortie doesn't lead to good play, but the position remains sharp. White has the following possibilities:

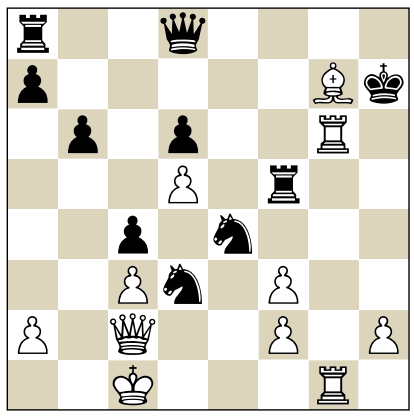


ANALYSIS DIAGRAM

A) 21.fxe4 ♘d3+ 22.♔d1 ♘xf4 23.♖g4 ♘d3, with sufficient counterplay;

B) 21.♖xe4 ♘d3+ 22.♔b1 ♖xf5, and now 23.♖xc4 is not so good in view of 23...♕e8!, and Black is better. After 23.♗xh6! White can claim an advantage himself;

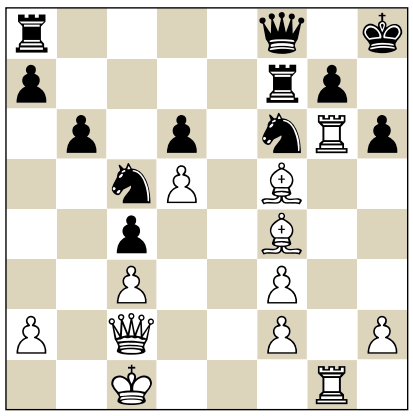
C) 21.♗xh6. This immediate capture also turns out to favour White. With a spectacular variation White manages to reach an endgame one pawn up. This happens as follows: 21...♖xf5 22.♗xg7+ ♔h7 23.♖eg1! ♘d3+



ANALYSIS DIAGRAM

24.♕xd3! cxd3 25.♖h6+ ♔g8 26.♗f6+ ♖g5! 27.♖xg5+ ♘xg5 28.♖h8+ ♔f7 29.♖xd8 ♖xd8 30.♗xd8 ♘xf3 31.h4 ♔e8 32.♗g5 ♔d7 33.♗f4 ♘xh4 34.♔d2, and White has practical chances, although Black will probably be able to build a fortress.

21.♖eg1 ♕f8

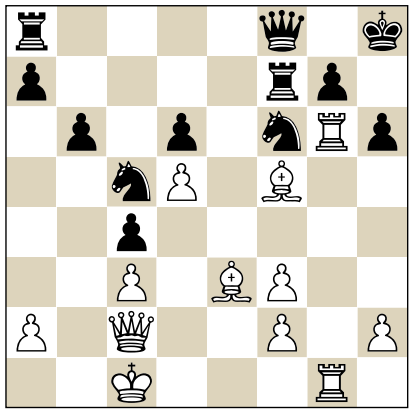


22.♗e3

With a clear plan: White wants to take his bishop to the long diagonal. But he should have played 22.♕d2 first by way of prevention. It's true that White does not threaten to sacrifice his bishop on h6, but he prevents 22...♘h5, because then he can capture on h6.

White is better, e.g. 22...♖e8 23.♔b1 ♘d3 (otherwise White will be able to gradually reinforce his position without giving Black counterplay) 24.♗xd3 cxd3 25.♕xd3 b5 26.♗e3 ♖e5 27.♗d4 ♖xd5 28.♖xh6+! gxh6 29.♗xf6+ ♖xf6 30.♕xd5, with winning chances for White.

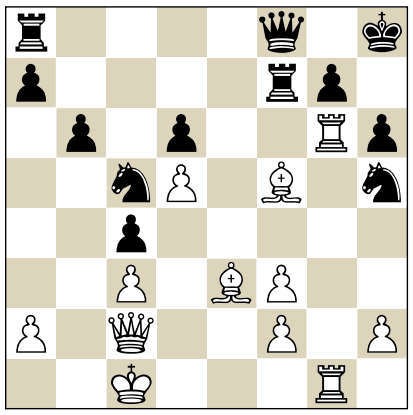
The situation is not entirely clear, especially because the white king always remains slightly exposed.



22...♘xd5

Up to this point Black had defended quite well, but taking the d-pawn is too time-consuming. He could have freed himself completely here with

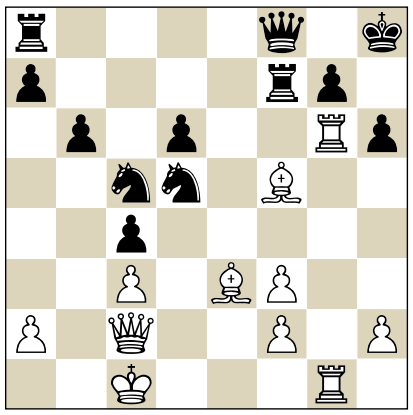
22...♘h5, when White will have to play carefully to maintain the balance. This is borne out by:



ANALYSIS DIAGRAM

A) 23.♗e6 ♘d3+ 24.♔b1 ♖f6 25.♖6g2 ♖e8! 26.♗d4 ♖e7! 27.♗xf6 ♕xf6, and Black has ample positional compensation for the exchange. Ulf Andersson would enjoy himself immensely in such a position;

B) 23.♗e4. The best move. White keeps the enemy queen's knight away from d3. After 23...♘d7 it is White who will have to sacrifice an exchange. He does this with 24.♕d2 ♘e5 25.♗xh6! ♘xg6 26.♗xg6 ♖f6 27.♗e3 ♘f4 28.♗e4, and the position is dynamically balanced.



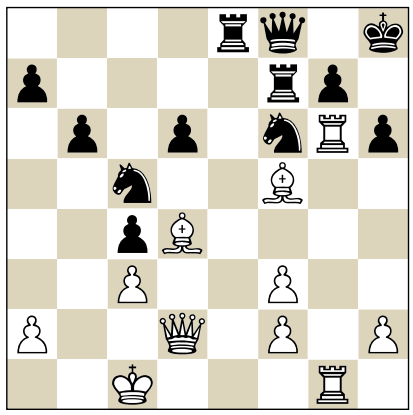
23.♗d4

White doesn't allow himself to be distracted by possible material gain and calmly continues to implement his plan.

The computer enthuses about 23.♗xc5 bxc5 24.♗e6 here, but I wonder whether winning the exchange will yield very much after 24...♘f4 25.♗xf7 ♘d3+ 26.♔b1 ♖b8+ 27.♔a1 ♕xf7 28.♖xg7, and if Black now swaps his queen for the white rooks, he has good chances to survive.

23...♘f6 24.♕d2 ♖e8

Giving White the chance to break through his defences. More tenacious was 24...♘d3+, but after 25.♗xd3 cxd3 26.♕xd3 ♖e8 27.♕f5! he would still be facing a very difficult defence.



25.♖xg7!

In the end, the blow does not land on h6 but on g7.

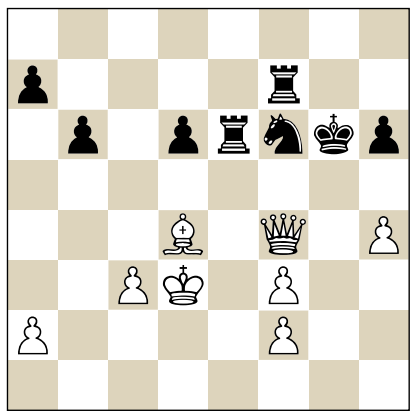
25...♕xg7

Forced, since Black would lose immediately after 25...♖xg7 26.♕xh6+ ♔g8 27.♗h7+!.

26.♖xg7 ♔xg7 27.♕f4 ♘d3+ 28.♗xd3 cxd3 29.♔d2 ♔g6 30.♔xd3 ♖e6 31.h4

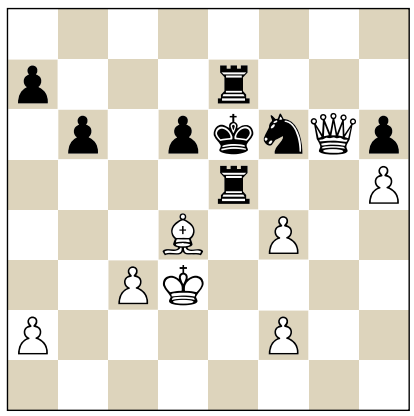
White calmly reinforces his position, while Black is reduced to watching impotently.

Magnus Carlsen: 'I thought I played OK, no more. I just wasn't lucky enough at the end.'



31...♖fe7 This loses at once. Black's only chance was 31...♖h7, but he can no longer throw up an effective defence. After 32.a4 d5 33.♔c2 he has run out of good moves.

32.h5+ ♔f7 33.♕f5 ♖e5 34.♕g6+ ♔e6 35.f4



And Black resigned, since he will lose a rook after 35...♖f5 36.♗xf6 ♖xf6 37.f5+ ♔e5 38.f4+.

SUBSTANTIAL SAVINGS!

Back to Basics
The Series
35% off!

Kasparov v Karpov
all 3 volumes
(eBooks)
30% off!

20% off!

Chess Developments
The Series

Power Play Series
17 DVDs combined
30% off!

Chess Combinations
World Champions
Vol. 1 & 2

15% off!

25% off!

Tournament Chess Set No. 5
Chess Board + Chess Pieces

more special discounts:

www.newinchess.com

NOTES BY
Anish Giri

KI 4.9 – E97
Anish Giri
Etienne Bacrot
Biel 2012 (3)

Before this game I was in excellent shape and eager to use my chances with the white pieces against Bacrot. During my preparation I was surprised to discover that solid Etienne had recently switched to the King's Indian. I still couldn't believe that I actually would get any of my preparation on the board, but in case of that miracle happening, I decided to check the position carefully and choose my try over the board.

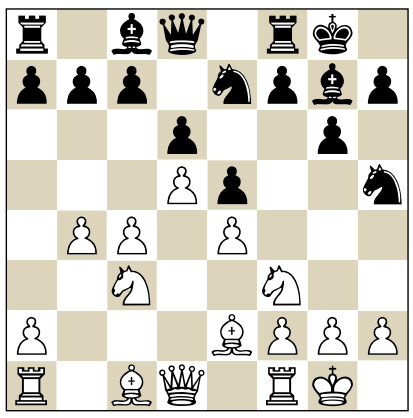
1.d4 ♘f6 2.c4 g6 3.♘c3 ♗g7 4.e4 d6

The KID is sort of back in fashion these days. For some reason, no one bothers to take it seriously and refute it once and for all.

5.♘f3 0-0 6.♗e2 e5 7.0-0 ♘c6 8.d5 ♘e7 9.b4

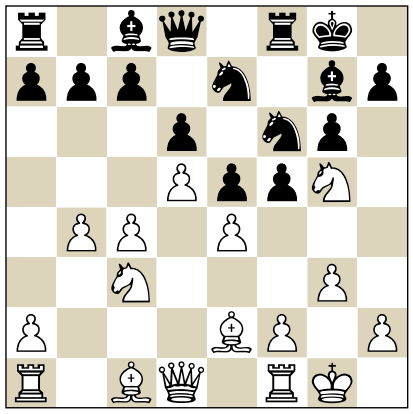
The Bayonet Attack, known as Kramnik's favourite. Etienne has experience in this line with both colours. I had mixed results after another critical move: 9.♘e1. There, both players get selfish and hope that they will be first. If it goes wrong, however, it's no fun to get mated.

9...♘h5



10.g3 A speciality of Loek van Wely's, the spiritual leader of Dutch chess. 10.♖e1 is the main line.

10...f5 11.♘g5 ♘f6



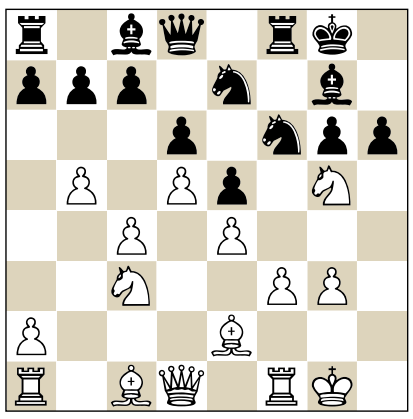
12.f3

Here, 12.♗f3 was a new idea demonstrated by Kramnik against me in Hoogeveen 2011. He later managed to win one more game against Grischuk with that move (see New In Chess 2012/5 – ed.), but I am sure that sooner or later even Kramnik will end up without new ideas in this rather double-edged line.

12...f4 13.b5

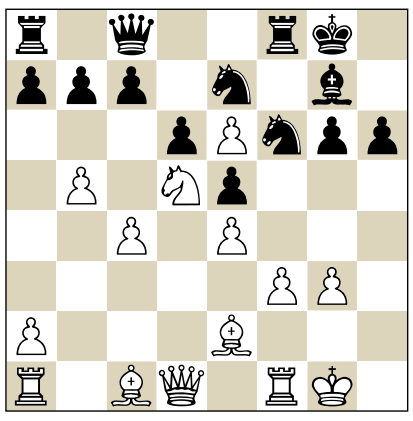
Preparing ♘e6 by covering the c6-square. It's a very typical motif in the Bayonet.

13...fxg3 14.hxg3 h6

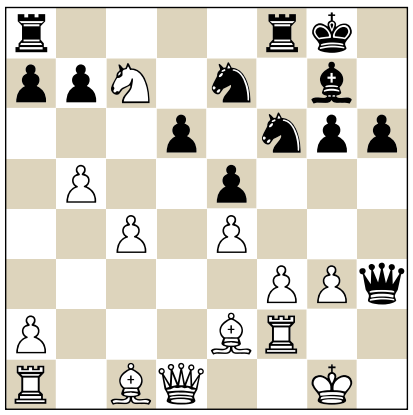


15.♘e6 ♗xe6 16.dxe6 ♕c8 17.♘d5

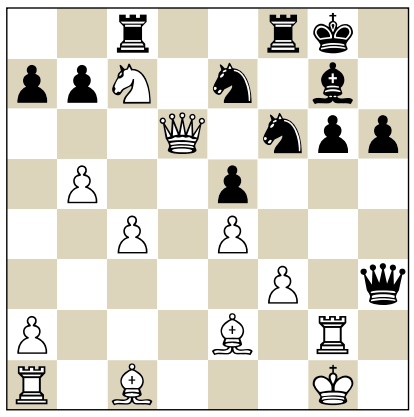
Sort of protecting the e6-pawn. Now the fun starts.



17...♕xe6 18.♘xc7 ♕h3 19.♖f2!
All this was invented by Loek decades ago and has been tested by him more than once.

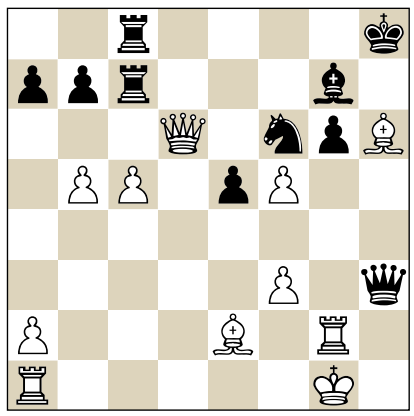


19...♖ac8!?
An interesting move. I had actually expected all this, as so far (and till move 24) we are following the game Van Wely-Bacrot from a couple of months back in the French League.
The main line is 19...♘xe4, with which Stellwagen managed to mate Loek some years ago, but improvements are being found again and again. Now 20.fxe4 ♖xf2 21.♔xf2 ♖f8+ 22.♔e3 ♕xg3+ 23.♔d2 ♖f2 is how two games of Van Wely went. He beat Radjabov in 2008 and a year later the above-mentioned mate followed.



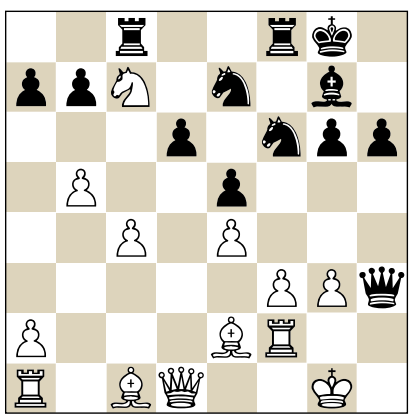
22...♖f7! Defending the knight, while at the same time preparing ...♘f5.
23.c5 ♘f5
Here 23...♘xe4 doesn't work: 24.fxe4 ♕c3 25.♗b2 ♕xb2 26.♖d1, and ♗g4-♗e6 is going to decide the game.
24.exf5 ♖fxc7 25.♗e3!?
Finally a new move. After studying the position very carefully I came to the conclusion that while White seems to be better after many moves, Black is always able to hold with computer precision. All I had to do was to choose the most unpleasant try, and it seems that I (pretty much accidentally) managed to succeed in that.
Here, Loek played 25.c6. While being critical, it was also the move Bacrot had focused on, so I decided to check him somewhere else.

resigns immediately from the shock, the game will just end in a draw after

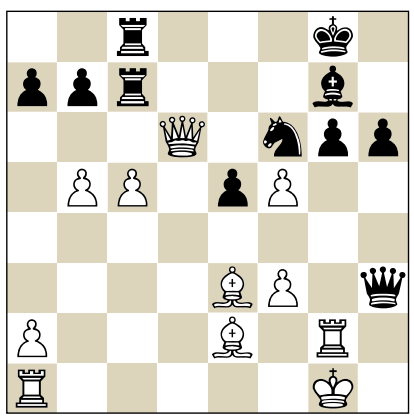


ANALYSIS DIAGRAM

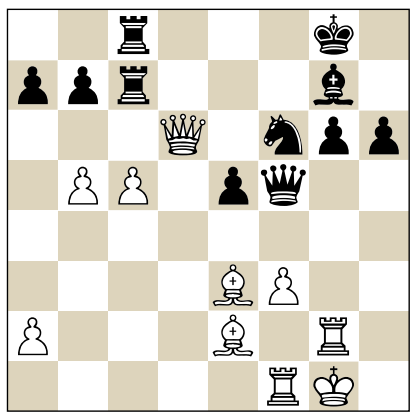
26...♕xf5! (26...♕xh6 is very drawish, but not a draw yet... 27.♖h2 ♘h5 28.♕xg6 ♕xg6+ 29.fxg6 ♗f6!? 30.♖xh5+ ♔g7 31.♖h7+! ♔xg6 32.♗d3+ ♔g5 33.♖xc7 ♖xc7 34.♖c1, and White keeps some pressure, even though there are almost no more pieces left and the bishops are of the opposite colour: 34...e4 35.♗xe4 ♗d4+ 36.♔f1) 27.♗d3 e4 28.fxe4 ♕xc5+ 29.♕xc5 ♖xc5 30.♖xg6 ♗xh6 31.♖xh6+ ♔g7, and the extra pawn has no other significance than just being there, so that I don't feel ashamed of my preparation. It's a draw.
26.♖f1!



20.♖h2!
After the immediate 20.♕xd6 Black has at least a draw: 20...♘xe4 21.fxe4 ♕xg3+ 22.♖g2 ♕e1+ 23.♔h2 ♕h4+.
20...♕xg3+
20...♕d7 is not in the spirit of the position: 21.b6!? axb6 22.♘b5.
21.♖g2 ♕h3 22.♕xd6



25...♕xf5?!
It was only over the board that I realized that this move, in fact, is just begging to be played. But it's a mistake, and the right move 25...♔h8! doesn't come to mind so easily.
Indeed, 25...♔h8! is the best. Now I intended to unleash the brilliant looking 26.♗xh6! and, unless Black



26...♗f8?
The most natural move, but also the losing one. One of the two prophylactic king moves should still be enough to hold on.
26...♖d7?? made me frown, as I hadn't actually looked at the position with a human eye before the game. But it obviously loses to the nice 27.♗c4+ ♔h7 28.♗e6!. After 26...♔h8 or

26...♔h7 27.♗d3 e4 28.fxe4 ♕h3 Black has tricks of his own, but obviously he is just trying to desperately hold the balance here.

27.♗d3!

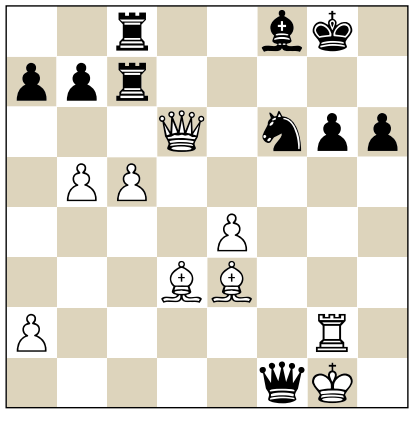
The only move, but it is more than enough.

27...e4

This and the next move are forced.

28.fxe4 ♕xf1+

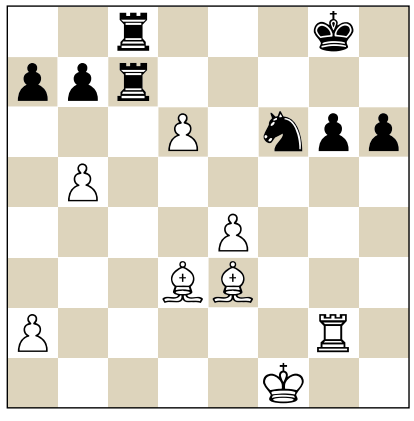
At first this move worried me a little, but I pretty quickly realized that my pawns are unstoppable.



29.♗xf1?!

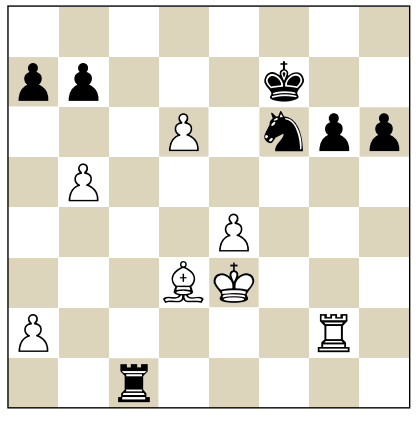
This just felt good, but according to the cold-blooded machine, it's less precise.

The best move was 29.♔xf1! ♗xd6 30.cxd6, and now I didn't see the exact way for Black, but somehow I felt I was giving him too many options. The computer considers all of those options and claims that none of them will hold:



ANALYSIS DIAGRAM

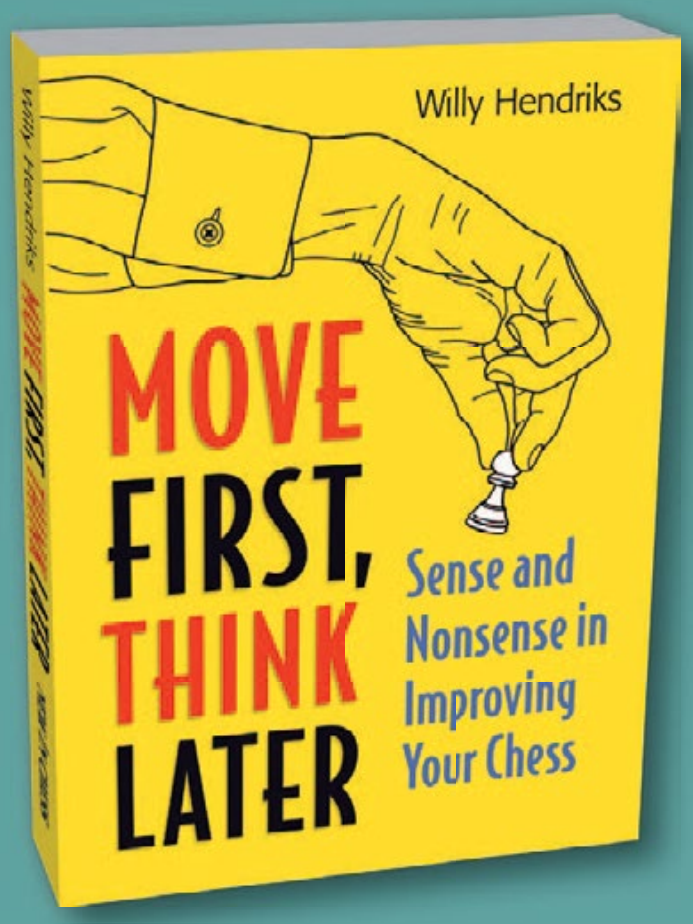
A) 30...♖c1+!? was one of the reasons I didn't take with the king. Here White wins with a beautiful and precise sequence: 31.♗xc1 ♖xc1+ 32.♔e2 ♔f7, and now the dancing starts: 33.♔d2! (33.e5 ♘d7!) 33...♖c5 (33...♖c8 34.♔e3!) 34.♔e3! ♖c1



ANALYSIS DIAGRAM

35.♗e2!! ♘d7 36.♔d4!, and Black can't stop the pawns from running. A very sophisticated line;

B) After 30...♖c3 I had totally missed the idea of 31.♖xg6+! (31.♔e2 ♖c2+!? 32.♗d2 ♔f7 was a funny line that I saw) 31...♔f7 32.e5! and sud-



"After reading this book you will feel like Neo in the film The Matrix, when he discovers that his life so far was an illusion and that his real life will start only now."

Martin Rieger
Europa Rochade Magazine

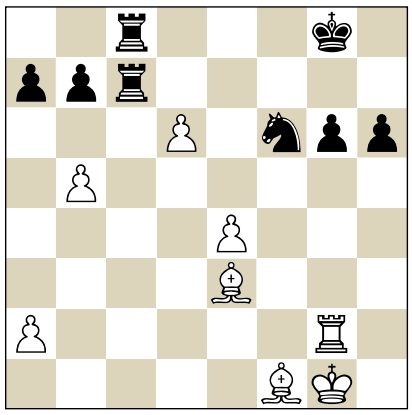
Paperback • 256 pages • € 21.95 • available at your local (chess)bookseller or at newinchess.com • a NEW IN CHESS publication

denly the rook is protected and the knight is attacked: 32...♖xd3 33.♖xf6+ ♔e8 34.♖e6+! ♔f7 35.♖e7+, and the pawns will queen;

C) Objectively speaking, the most stubborn for Black may be 30...♖f7 31.♖xg6+ ♔h7 32.♖xh6+ ♔g7 33.♔e2, but after 33...♖e8! 34.♖h4 ♖d7 35.♗c5 White should just be technically winning.

29...♗xd6 30.cxd6

Black again has plenty of moves, but I didn't see any defence for him and felt that I should win this position. The computer, however, shows that even though White is definitely the one with all the fun, things aren't that easy yet.



30...♖c3?

After a long think Etienne found an interesting idea, but fortunately for me it doesn't work.

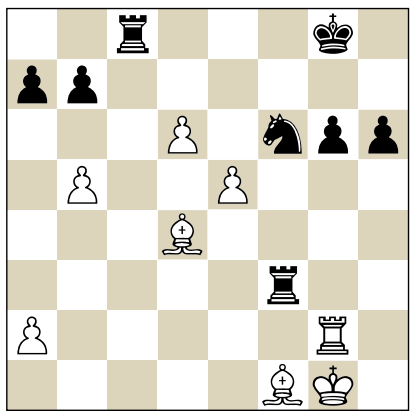
An interesting attempt to survive is 30...♖f7!?, but after 31.e5 ♘d5 White can avoid the trap and keep his enormous advantage with 32.♖xg6+! (32.♗xh6 ♖xf1+! 33.♔xf1 ♔f7 is the trick. With the pawns blocked, Black has excellent drawing chances) 32...♖g7 33.♖xg7+ ♔xg7 34.♗xa7.

The right move was 30...♖d7!, but in fact it is the next move that is remarkable: 31.e5 g5!!. A computer-style defence. I must say I wasn't even thinking in this direction. Black keeps his kingside pawns alive and manages to get control of my connected passed pawns. Still, White has excellent winning chances, as he has two bishops for the rook and the a7-pawn will drop.

31.♗d4 ♖f3 32.e5!

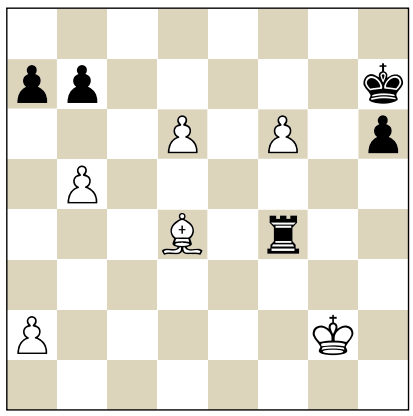
NEW IN CHESS

Anish Giri: 'The KID is sort of back in fashion these days. For some reason, no one bothers to take it seriously and refute it once and for all.'



32...♖f4!?

Played instantly. We both saw that the tempting 32...♖c1 loses by force. There is a straightforward line for White: 33.♖xg6+ ♔h7 34.♖xf6 ♖cxf1+ 35.♔g2 (35.♔h2!) 35...♖xf6 (forced) 36.exf6, and Black can't stop the pawns. The line continues 36...♖f4

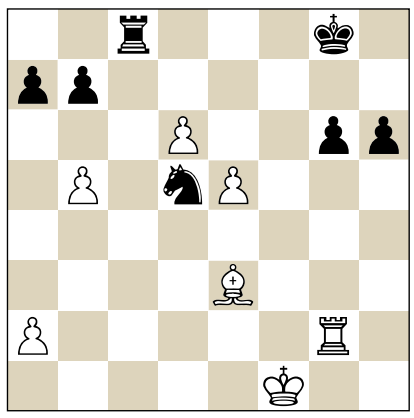


ANALYSIS DIAGRAM

37.♗c5! (not 37.♗e5 ♖g4+ 38.♔f3 ♖g8 39.d7 ♔g6!! 40.♗c7 ♔xf6 41.d8♕+ ♖xd8 42.♗xd8+ ♔e5, and it starts to look like a study...) 37...♖xf6 38.d7 ♖g6+ 39.♔f3 ♖g8 40.♗e7, and wins.

33.♗b2!

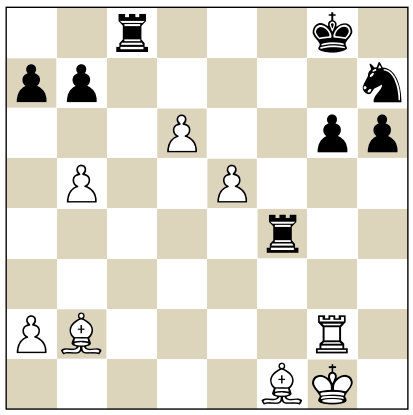
I was very tempted to play 33.♗e3 straightaway, but as I had too much time left on my clock, I decided that some extra thinking wouldn't do any harm. And rightly so, as this move is just suicide. 33.♗e3?! would allow 33...♖xf1+! 34.♔xf1 ♘d5, and here the pawns won't queen, because Black will take the bishop and then come back with his knight to d5, covering the key e7-square. And otherwise ♔f7 is just in time:



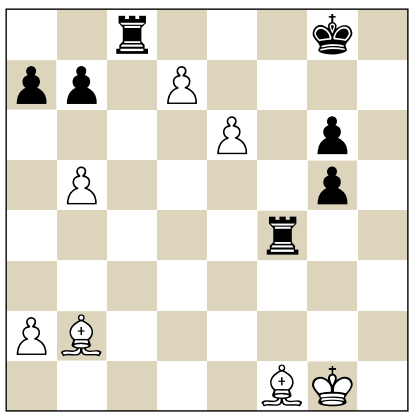
ANALYSIS DIAGRAM

35.♗xh6 (35.e6? ♘xe3+ 36.♔f2 ♘d5!) 35...♔f7, with excellent drawing chances.

33...♘h7 All other knight moves also lose, as the pawns are just running.



34.e6 I took some time to calculate a precise win, but in fact nearly everything wins at this point.
34.d7 also wins easily, as after 34...♖cf8 35.e6 ♘g5 is clever, but not clever enough: 36.e7 ♘f3+ 37.♔f2 I had seen till here, but somehow I thought that it was better not to allow him so many discovered checks. All of them lose though, for example: 37...♘h2+ 38.♔e1! ♖e4+ 39.♖e2 ♖xf1+ 40.♔d2 ♘f3+ 41.♔d3.
34...♘g5
34...♘f8 35.e7 ♘d7 is hopeless. I intended 36.♖xg6+ ♔f7 37.♗h3!.
35.♖xg5! hxg5 36.d7

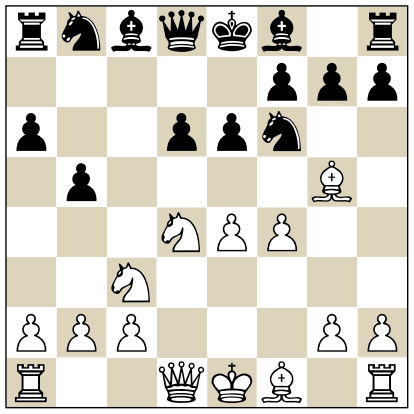


36...♖g4+
After 36...♖cf8, as long as White avoids 37.e7?? and just moves the f1-bishop first, he should win easily with 37.♗g2! (37.e7?? ♖xf1+ 38.♔g2 ♖8f2+ 39.♔g3 ♖f3+ 40.♔g4 ♖f4+ 41.♔xg5 ♔h7!, and Black starts checking perpetually: 42.e8♕ ♖f5+ 43.♔h4 ♖5f4+ is a draw).
37.♗g2 Black resigned.
I wish I could promote my central pawns more often like that.

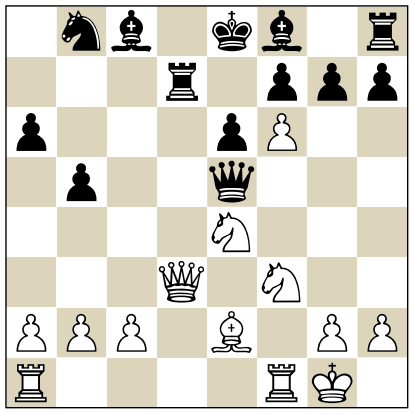
NOTES BY
Hikaru Nakamura

SI 7.3 – B96
Wang Hao
Hikaru Nakamura
Biel 2012 (3)

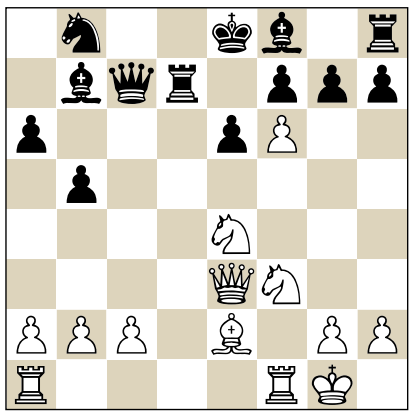
I very rarely have the opportunity to annotate chess games. In the recent Biel Chess Festival I had two incredibly complex games against the Chinese GM Wang Hao. If I had managed to win one out of the two clashes, I would have won the tournament. Regardless of the results, I felt both games were extremely exciting for the spectators.
As I look again at what was a painful or comical loss, I notice some really beautiful combinations that remind me of the old games played by the likes of Tal, Polugaevsky and Fischer. At the same time, I have to congratulate Wang Hao on his ability to hang in there and defend despite being in serious trouble in both of our encounters. This proved to be the key factor in helping him to his first super tournament victory.
Last but not least, I would be remiss if I did not mention Olivier Breisacher, who left us all too soon. I first had the chance to meet Olivier back in 2005, when I was invited to the Biel Chess Festival. He made it a very enjoyable experience for both my stepfather and I. What I will always remember about Olivier was his great sense of humour, friendly nature and our debates on tennis (Federer or Nadal). The chess world has lost a great organizer who will not be easily replaced.
1.e4!
What a great first move. For some unknown reason I had spent most of the time before the game preparing for 1.d4.
1...c5 2.♘f3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.♘xd4 ♘f6 5.♘c3 a6 6.♗g5 e6 7.f4 b5!?
The Polugaevsky Variation. I had prepared this for Kamsky in the U.S. Championship and had not been able to use it, so this seemed as good a time as any.



8.e5 dxe5 9.fxe5 ♕c7 10.exf6 ♕e5+ 11.♗e2 ♕xg5 12.0-0 ♖a7 13.♕d3 ♖d7 14.♘e4 ♕e5 15.♘f3



15...♕c7!?
15...♕xb2 is the main line. With Wang Hao blitzing out his moves, I decided to use some time and look for alternatives. While I suspected 15...♕c7 should be bad, I could not quite figure out why at the board.
As said, 15...♕xb2 16.♕e3 ♗b7 is the main line, and one in which White has a million options.
16.♕e3 ♗b7



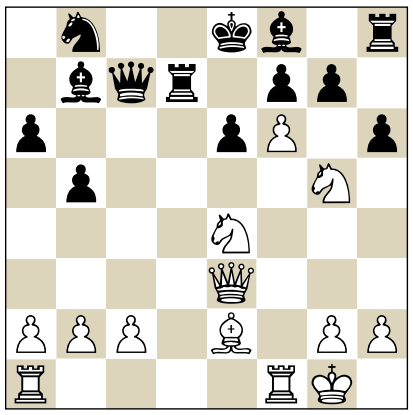
17.♘fg5?!

Hikaru Nakamura: 'As I look again at what was a painful loss, I notice some really beautiful combinations that remind me of the old games by the likes of Tal, Polugaevsky and Fischer.'

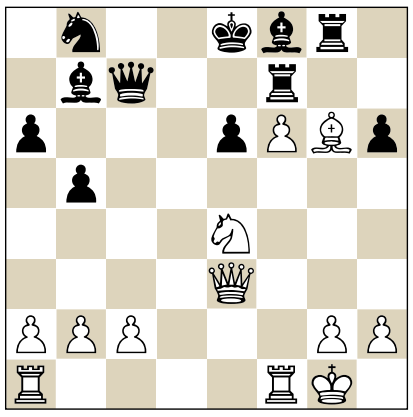
A very logical human continuation. It is pretty common to try and punish your opponent when they play something outside of book in such a sharp position. However, this appears to be a mistake, as Black gains the initiative and the upper hand in a few moves.
After 17.c3 g6 18.♖fe1 White stands slightly better due to the uncomfortable king in the centre, which does not have a safe place. I assume that soon enough we'll see a theoretical discussion on this position that will provide everyone with a clearer picture.

17...h6

After playing this move Wang Hao made a funny face. Upon leaving the board, I briefly remarked to Anish (Giri) that one of us had missed something. The big question was who!

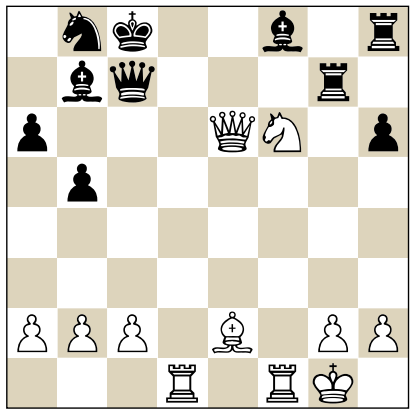


18.♕h3 Vindication! Wang Hao played it after a very long think. None of the alternatives seem to work out quickly. This also gave me a huge psychological boost knowing that I had not miscalculated any of the lines involving sacs galore.
Such as 18.♘xf7 ♖xf7 19.♗h5 g6 20.♗xg6 ♖g8



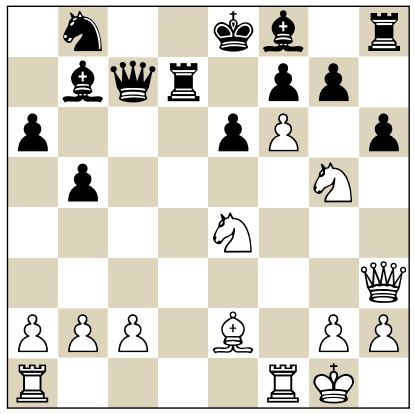
ANALYSIS DIAGRAM

21.♗xf7+ (21.♘g5 ♗c5 22.♗xf7+ ♔f8) 21...♔xf7.
Or 18.♘xe6 fxe6 19.fxg7 (19.♗h5+ ♔d8 20.fxg7 ♗xg7 21.♘c5 ♕xc5 22.♕xc5 ♗d4+) 19...♖xg7 20.♘f6+ ♔d8 21.♖ad1+ ♔c8 22.♕xe6+



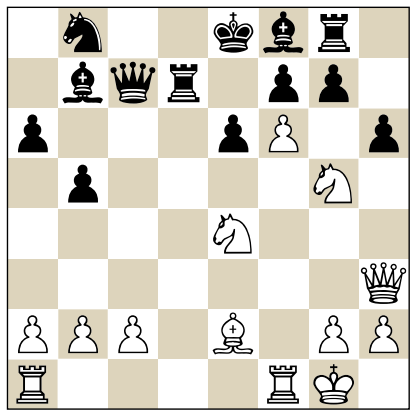
ANALYSIS DIAGRAM

22...♕d7!!. This unbelievable shot wins the game on the spot: 23.♖xd7 ♖xg2+ 24.♔h1 ♖xe2+ 25.♖xb7+ ♖xe6, and Black is simply a piece up in the endgame.
Or 18.fxg7 ♗xg7 19.♘f3 (after 19.♘xe6 fxe6 20.♘f6+ ♗xf6 21.♖xf6 ♗d5 22.a4 b4 23.♗f3 ♖e7 Black is a piece up and substantially better, but it is not trivial) 19...♕xc2, and Black is a clean pawn up and about to complete his development with a winning position.



18...g6

Here 18...♗d5!? was another interesting alternative, which needs serious consideration.
I saw 18...♖g8!? at the board, but rejected it since I assumed there had to be something good for White. The computer, as usual, proves what a bunch of clowns humans are at chess:

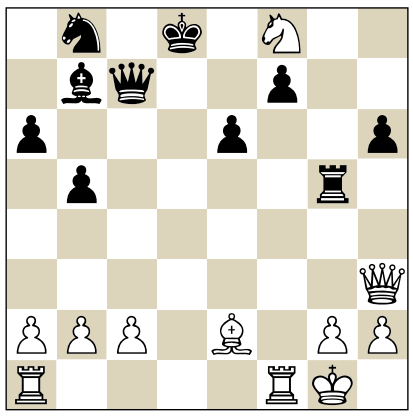


ANALYSIS DIAGRAM

A) 19.♘xe6 ♕b6+ 20.♔h1 ♗xe4 21.♖ae1 fxe6 22.♗h5+ ♔d8 23.♖xe4 gxf6 24.♖xe6 ♗d6 25.♖exf6 ♔c7 26.♖d1 ♕c5, and Black should be winning here;

B) 19.♘xf7 ♕b6+ 20.♔h1 ♗xe4 21.♘e5 gxf6 22.♗f3 fxe5 23.♗xe4 ♔d8, and once again, like in most lines, Black is up a piece, and once the monarch is secure the rest should be pretty simple;

C) 19.fxg7 ♖xg7 20.♘f6+ ♔d8 21.♘xd7 ♖xg5 22.♘xf8



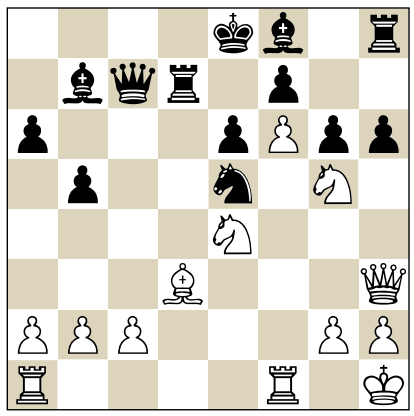
ANALYSIS DIAGRAM

22...♕c5+! (a very important intermediate move) 23.♖f2 ♖xg2+ 24.♕xg2 ♗xg2 25.♘xe6+ fxe6 26.♔xg2 ♕xc2 27.♖d1+ ♔c7 28.♗f3 ♕f5. The computer thinks this is a dead draw, but White probably still has some small chances.

19.♗d3 ♘c6

After 19...♖g8, 20.♘h7! is a very creative manoeuvre: 20...♗xe4 21.♗xe4 ♗c5+ 22.♔h1 h5 23.♖ae1, and White should be significantly better due to the permanent outpost for the knight on g5.

20.♔h1 ♘e5



21.♖ae1?!

A natural move, but wrong.

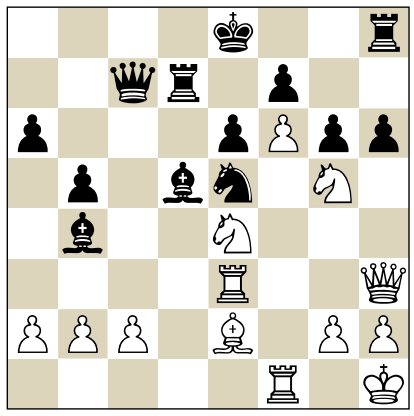
No good either was 21.♘xe6 fxe6 22.♕xe6+ ♔d8 23.f7 ♖e7! 24.♕f6 ♘g4 25.♕d4+ ♖d7! 26.♘d6 ♕xd6 27.♕xg4 h5 28.♕h4+ ♔c7, and Black is once again winning.

Best was 21.♖ad1 ♕b6 22.♖fe1 ♗d5 23.a3 ♕c6, when an impasse has been reached. It is extremely hard to evaluate the position, since the computer thinks White can play any move and it is equal. The main problem is that it is hard for either side to make progress without ruining their position.

21...♗b4 22.♖e3 ♗d5

Now White is in trouble.

23.♗e2

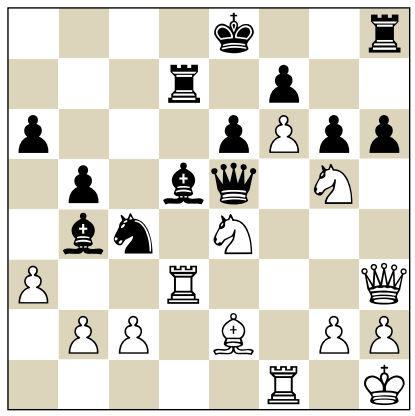


23...♘c4

Trying to be too cute and simplify.

After 23...♕xc2 24.a3 ♘c4 25.♗xc4 ♗xc4 26.♖g1 ♗d2 27.♘xd2 ♕xd2 28.♖ge1 ♖d3 Black is up a pawn. It is still not easy, but with precise technique it should be winning.

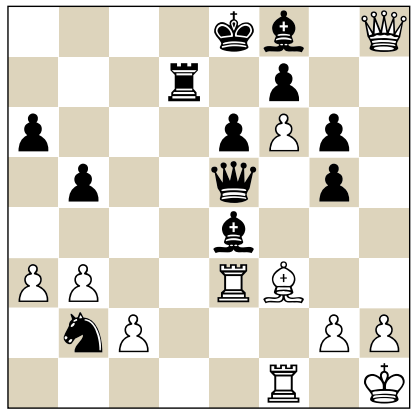
24.♖d3 ♕e5 25.a3



25...♗a5?!

During the game I was originally going to go back to f8, but I noticed that from a5 I had some future tricks involving ...♘d2.

Still, best was 25...♗f8 26.b3 ♘b2 27.♖e3 hxg5 28.♕xh8 ♗xe4 29.♗f3



ANALYSIS DIAGRAM

29...♘d1!! (the move I had missed) 30.♗xd1 (30.♖xe4 ♘f2+) 30...♗xg2+

Do you want to improve your chess?

chessvibes.training
let's improve your chess
A not so one-sided fight (1)

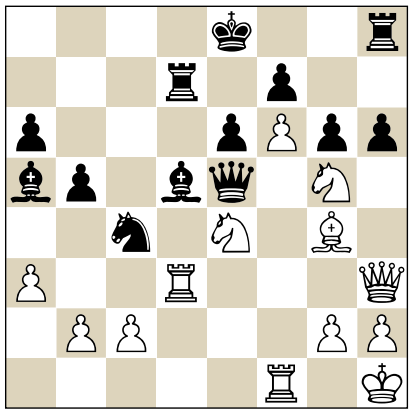
chessvibes.training

Weekly PDF magazine (+ PGN!).
8 pages of middlegame & endgame tips.
Column by top GM Anish Giri.

Subscribe at chessvibes.com/training

31.♔xg2 ♕xe3, and game over.

26.♗g4

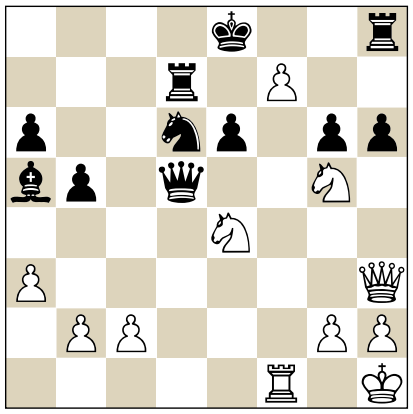


26...♘d6??

A horrible blunder. With looming time-pressure, I completely cracked and blundered.

The right way was 26...♘xb2 27.♖e3 ♔d8! (a total computer move. I did not see it or the idea at all) 28.♘f3 ♕f4 29.♘fd2 ♕c7 30.c3 ♗b6 31.♖e2 ♔c8, and White has been forced to misplace his pieces and Black is completely winning.

27.♖xd5 ♕xd5 28.♗xe6 fxe6 29. f7+

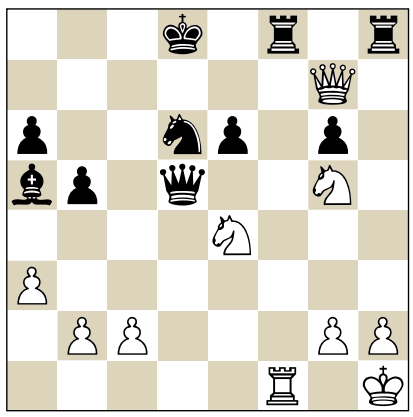


29...♔d8? My original intention was 29...♔e7. I had only seen 30.♕h4 for some reason and forgot all about

NEW IN CHESS

Several opens together with the Grandmaster Group in the same hall remains a perfect combination.

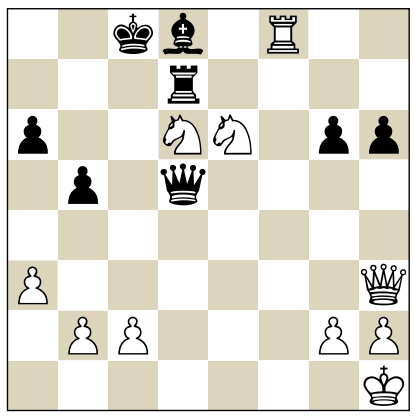
30.♕xh6! (30.♕h4 ♘f5) 30...♖dd8 31.f8♕+ ♖dxf8 32.♕g7+ ♔d8



ANALYSIS DIAGRAM

33.♖xf8+ ♖xf8 34.♕xf8+ ♔c7 35.♕e7+ ♔c6 36.♕xd6+ ♕xd6 37.♘xd6 ♔xd6 38.♔g1 ♗b6+ 39.♔f1 ♗d4 40.b3 ♔d5 41.♔e2 ♗b2 42.a4 bxa4 43.bxa4 ♗f6 44.♘h3 e5 45.♔d3 e4+ 46.♔e2 g5 47.♘f2 ♗d8 and with correct play, this is probably a draw. In human play, I still think White should win this most of the time.

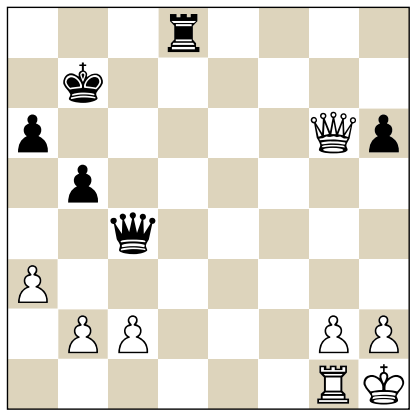
30.♘xe6+ ♔c8 31.f8♕+ ♖xf8 32. ♖xf8+ ♗d8 33.♘xd6+



33...♔b8

After 33...♕xd6 34.♖xd8+ ♖xd8 35.♘xd8+ ♔xd8 36.♕d3 White wins the resulting king and pawn ending.

34.♖f1 ♖xd6 35.♘xd8 ♕c4 36.♖g1 ♖xd8 37.♕g3+ ♔b7 38.♕xg6 The rest is pretty straightforward. Wang Hao does not give me any drawing chances.



38...♖d2 39.♕xh6 ♖xc2 40.♕g7+ ♔b6 41.b4 ♕d3 42.♖e1 ♕e3 43.♕f6+ ♔c7 44.♕f1 ♖f2 45.♕g1 ♕f4 46.h3 ♕g3 47.♕h2 Black resigned. ■

Biel 2012 — **cat. XXI**

			1	2	3	4	5	6	7	classic		TPR
1 Wang Hao	CHN	2739	*	0 0	1 1	1 1	1 ½	1 0	-	6½	19	2859
2 Magnus Carlsen	NOR	2837	1 1	*	½ ½	½ ½	½ ½	1 1	-	7	18	2879
3 Anish Giri	NED	2696	0 0	½ ½	*	½ ½	1 1	1	1	6	16	2834
4 Hikaru Nakamura	USA	2778	0 0	½ ½	½ ½	*	1 1	1 1	-	6	16	2814
5 Etienne Bacrot	FRA	2713	0 ½	½ ½	0 0	0 0	*	½	1	3	7	2613
6 Victor Bologan	MOL	2732	0 1	0 0	0	0 0	½	*	-	1½	4	2510
7 Alexander Morozevich	RUS	2770	-	-	0	-	0	-	*	0	0	2447

3 points for a win, 1 for a draw, 0 for a loss

Wang Hao:

‘I got bored with playing normal games’

Wang Hao in his G-Star Raw shirt with the fashion brand’s name taped off as part of the design.

With six wins, three losses and only one draw, winner Wang Hao didn’t exactly shirk his duties amid the mayhem and bloodshed that marked the 45th anniversary of the Biel Chess Festival. At the end of a wild roller coaster **Dirk Jan ten Geuzendam** talked to an unusual talent who has rediscovered his pleasure in the game and is happily facing the opportunities and choices an unknown future has on offer. ‘When you play tournaments continuously, you feel kind of sad.’

As we sit down in a quiet room of the Biel Congress Centre and I put my voice recorder on the table, Wang Hao friendly points out that he has one too. He uses it to record lectures, so that he can listen back to them at home. For two years now he has been studying at the Department of Journalism and Communication of Beijing University. Following a general introductory year he chose advertising as his special subject. He still has two years ahead of him and doesn't know yet if he will use his studies to find a job or whether he will continue to play chess. He laughs and says that it will depend on his mood. 'I have not made any decision yet. Life is full of choices. That was one of the reasons I went to university. Another reason was that there you make many more friends. In the chess world everybody is... You always see the same faces. I like to meet new people.'

As we talk, the last game of the Grandmaster Group is still in progress on the otherwise deserted stage of the Auditorium. The result of that last game will decide if Wang Hao will be the sole winner of the Biel Festival or whether he will have to settle for second place. The general opinion amongst the other grandmasters is that things look fine for the Chinese number one, as Etienne Bacrot seems to be holding against Magnus Carlsen. He himself shows little interest. He doesn't care and doesn't try to obtain any updates about the course of the game. 'It doesn't matter. I was trying to play well and did my best.' As simple as that. He's also relieved that he is finished and is looking forward to going home and seeing his friends again. He feels relaxed and talks freely.

Although it's a tempting one, I skip the predictable question about the G-Star Raw shirt he is wearing, as I already heard him explain to several people that he started wearing the brand well before Magnus Carlsen became one of its models. Still, the allusion is tempting because of an intriguing detail: the name of the fashion brand on the right is taped off. He tells me this has nothing to do with Carlsen either, as it is simply part of the original design.

Watching today's Wang Hao, a spontaneous youngster with a lively interest in the world around him, it's hard to connect him to the young boy I saw 10 years ago during a China-USA match in Shanghai. Dressed for the occasion in an immaculate white shirt and a suit that only stressed his tender age, 12-year-old Wang Hao made his debut on the national team on one of the junior boards. He had neither a title nor a rating yet, but he had left the Chinese federation no choice by scoring an unbelievable 14½ from 16 in two qualifying events. In Shanghai he only played one game, but he intently followed the other players as they analysed their games. Despite his clear interest Wang Hao was incredibly shy, and whenever he noticed that a camera was pointed at him, he'd turn around and move away.

Today's Wang Hao also remembers that timid boy very well. 'I used to be very shy and I just didn't want to talk. I didn't like talking. I thought I would never change, but time can change everything. I think I changed a lot. Especially in my character. Maybe it's because of studying or travelling, I don't know, but I've become much more outgoing.'

Wang Hao hails from Harbin, the capital and, with some 6 million inhabitants, the largest city of Heilongjiang Province in the North East of China. Once his chess talent was acknowledged, he moved to Beijing, where he finished his middle school and went to live at the chess academy where the national team trains. 'I came to Beijing with my mother. She bought an apartment. My father stayed at home, taking care of my grandfather. That's a kind of Chinese tradition. Recently my grandfather passed away. Maybe my father will join my mother now. At the chess academy they have rooms where you can stay, but it was very boring to me. It's a closed space without any connection to normal society. I don't like this atmosphere. I want to meet other people, that's the way to live.'

These days he is living in the dorm of his university. Another important decision he took in the years that were mainly filled with chess was to learn English. 'When I was 15, I began taking classes at a private school. I think my English has improved a lot in the past years. I watch a lot of movies and also TV series to improve my English. And I mainly play the English versions of my favourite computer games, such as Skyrim and Dragon Age.'

He feels that of late his attitude towards chess has changed considerably. 'It was a part of my life. Now I am not sure what it is. I feel like a more complete individual person. I hardly get angry or sad anymore when I am playing chess. Sometimes when I don't play chess I feel maybe even better. Sometimes when I finish my exams, I do not want to play chess for two or three months. I just don't even want to look at it. That's true.'

The turning point came around the end of 2007 and the start of 2008. 'I

played seven tournaments in a row. I was playing continuously and it was driving me crazy. I thought this was too much and decided I could not play chess like this. I was even sick. I couldn't eat for one week, just couldn't. Maybe it was something psychological, but still I was feeling there was something wrong with me. I thought it was not good to play chess like this, that maybe I had to learn something else.'

He approached the national coach, Ye Jiangchuan, and told him about his feelings and his wish to go to university. Seeing that he might lose one of his biggest talents, Ye was not too receptive to his doubts and wishes and tried to keep him on board. 'That was in 2008. Actually I was very disappointed, because for two years I played chess but still it was unpleasant. Then after these two years he finally allowed me to go to university.'

The agreement with the federation is that he continues to play for the national team and in several national events, depending on whether his classes and exams leave him time. Wang Hao feels that in fact his chess has benefited from the choice he made. 'I believe so. My vision during the game has become much broader. I see many more possibilities. Maybe because I am enjoying life more. When you play tournaments continuously you feel kind of sad. I think there should be a balance between normal life and chess. This way it's much better.'

The pleasure he has playing these days was certainly borne out in Biel, where he was spoiling for a fight in each and every game, no matter whether he was White or Black. In the end he made only one single draw. He laughs. 'Yes, incredible. In that game I didn't have the chance to fight for some complicated position. But only one draw is also unusual for me, because normally I still make some draws. I don't know when it started, maybe one or two years ago, but from some point on I got bored with playing normal games. Maybe I just became a bit crazy. By only studying main lines I was getting only draws and felt quite badly. It didn't give me any satisfaction.'

NEW IN CHESS

Dressed for the occasion in an immaculate white shirt and a suit that only stresses his tender age, 12-year-old debutant Wang Hao watches Ye Jiangchuan and Greg Kaidanov analyse at the China-USA match in Shanghai in 2002.

I suggest that perhaps he first needed his freedom, to work independently of a coach. 'Maybe that is true, because now I don't have a private coach. But I haven't had a private coach or second for many years. At the chess academy I sometimes worked with some other players, but most of the time I worked alone. I didn't have any choice. Wang Yue used to work with Li Chao, but those guys are from the same province of Shangxi, and they're good friends. And they look very similar (laughs). I need to find this kind of help, but I couldn't. In my city it's very difficult to find someone. Hopefully I will manage eventually.'

He did, however, work together with a foreign player of considerable strength. 'I trained with Levon Aronian, my good friend, for two weeks in some strange place in Armenia (laughs). He invited me to prepare for the Candidates' matches. But after two weeks the semester was about to start and I had to go back.'

Working with an original mind like Levon Aronian must no doubt have left his traces, and he is pleased with the play he showed in Biel. Yet he doesn't want to call it his finest achievement to date. 'Maybe this is one of my biggest successes, but I think I should have won the Tal Memorial in 2010. In the last game against Karjakin I was completely winning, but I blundered one move and it was a draw. And I think I played pretty well in the World Teams Championship in Ningbo last year. I made plus three in the first part (with 6 out of 9 he had the best result on first board, ahead of Levon Aronian – DJtG). I think that was better than my result here.'

In any case, Biel is a reminder of what he is capable of. 'It shows that I can play such tournaments and keep my level and not lose rating. I think I won 17 points. But I lost many Elo points in my previous tournaments (in the FIDE August 2012 list, which didn't count Biel, Wang Hao is in 23rd place with a 2726 rating. In the Live

Ratings he is in 14th place with a 2742 rating – DJtG). Actually I lost 16 Elo points in three games in the national league in China. The first one I lost on time because of some defect in the clock. At that point my position was better. Maybe not enough to win, but certainly not losing. Then I lost my game against Motylev in one move in a completely equal position. He was trying to make a draw and I was thinking, maybe I play something else. And that lost easily, in just one move! And in the third game I drew with some 2400 player. But he is a good player.'

He laughs about this recent misfortune and admits that these days he is more relaxed about upsets. 'Yes, perhaps you are right. Maybe it's also because I do not love chess as much as I used to. I remember when I played against Levon in Wijk aan Zee last year. He thought he was winning, but it turned out the position was equal. The computer showed that it was a complete draw. When he couldn't make progress, he was very angry. Afterwards I told him you shouldn't tell a friend that you are winning, but check with a computer and see it's equal.'

His new attitude towards the game has left him with less clear expectations about his chess future. Which doesn't mean that in his fanatical years he didn't have the childhood dreams about the world championship that most youngsters have. 'I did think about it. But at tournaments I would always feel very tired after six or seven rounds. I'd feel I could not concentrate and in complicated situations I would begin to play badly. I don't know, I dreamed about it, but then I said, just let it be. But that was before I went to study at the university. It's a physical thing. It's my back and I don't think there is a solution. I need to do some normal sports, like running, swimming, that is relaxing. It started after playing chess for many years. After some time I am in pain and I don't think it can be cured.'

Although he doesn't want to belittle his ambitions in chess, his face lights up when we speak about his further interests and pastimes, which are so important to him. 'During tournaments I like to read novels and play online card games, desktop card games. No poker, some Chinese game. This time I brought George Orwell's *1984*, but didn't read it. I did read *The Song of Ice and Fire*, the book that the HBO series was based on. The book is great, much better than the TV series. And I was reading a novel by Higashino Keigo that I enjoyed a lot. I like Japanese writers, including Murakami. He is really good, but he is more European compared to other Japanese writers. As for music, I love one band from Finland, Nightwish, the only metal band I like. There are various kinds of music I listen to. If something is good it can be anything.

> 'I could not play chess like this. I was even sick. I couldn't eat for one week, just couldn't. Maybe it was something psychological, but still I was feeling there was something wrong with me.'

'At home I like to have dinner with friends, or go to the cinema and the theatre, both Chinese and Western. And go shopping with girls. Right now I don't have a girlfriend, for some reason. But I am pretty sure I would feel better, because I had girlfriends before and liked that.'

When he is playing chess he doesn't drink, but there are moments when he allows himself to let off steam. 'Recently, after finishing my exams I went to a pub for one week. Every night, just to relax, because the tension got too much during the exams. But I got tired from drinking too much. At that time I had trouble sleeping, as my dorm was very hot, there was no air-conditioning and there were so many mosquitos that I couldn't sleep. I guess I was trying to find a way to sleep anyway.'

He replies with a broad smile when I ask him if he sees life as a discovery of his personality. 'That's an interesting way to see it. I don't know, I think I mainly do so by travelling. I would like to travel all over the world. There are many countries I'd like to visit. I haven't been to the U.S. or to Japan. I loved Iceland. I played the Reykjavik Open two years ago. It just felt very fresh every day, because of the nature, the air, the friendly people. Also Sweden. I played an open there and finished with 8 out of 9, but I didn't win the tournament, because my colleague Li Chao won with 8½ out of 9! He only drew with me and won the other games; I made one more draw (laughs). This was four years ago. I didn't do any preparing. Every morning I would go out to do some sightseeing. Really good, but not good for my tournament!'

His next chess event will be the Olympiad in Turkey and then the first Grand Prix leg in London ('If it is held'). In January he will play in Wijk aan Zee, a long tournament with 13 rounds in which he hopes to show stamina. What will happen after he finishes his studies in 2014 remains vague to him. 'That is the question. I may not necessarily work in advertising. I have other interests as well. We'll see. (With a telling smile) When I look at it now, I may still opt for chess. Because right now I don't see what other job I could do where I can make good money.' ■

Enjoy the Chess Olympiad with live commentary by Daniel King, Yasser Seirawan, and Lawrence Trent!

Playchess.com

Join the world's biggest chess server. At playchess.com you will meet 20,000 chess lovers every day, from all over the world. You will immediately be able to find an opponent of your own playing strength, or if you fancy watching, you can kibitz grandmaster games and follow world class tournaments. Indulge in the best of playchess.com now and be ready for the next top class tournament with live-commentary on the playchess server!

7 reasons for premium membership

1. All world class tournaments with live commentary
See it live when Carlsen, Anand, Kramnik & Co are battling out in classic tournaments, candidates tournaments or the world championship itself with triumph or defeat on the line. Enjoy fascinating live analysis from the very top commentators like Daniel King, Yasser Seirawan or Maurice Ashley and experience the decisive moments in world class chess up close and personal.

2. Round-up shows – the survey of the important events of the day
When there are top tournaments, playchess commentators offer you an evening survey of the high points of the day. What was the most spectacular game? Who gave away the win or managed to save the draw with
a trick? Which player has the best chances of overall victory?

3. An unbeatable team – the commentators on playchess.com
Premium members will find awaiting them on playchess.com a team of authors of the highest class. Daniel King is a real jack of all trades as far as chess is concerned: experienced grandmaster, author of numerous books, committed trainer and the most popular chess presenter of all. With his analyses Maurice Ashley provides the best of proof that chess is exciting and that it can be presented in a fascinating and entertaining way. In his career Yasser Seirawan has already crossed swords with Kasparov,

Karpov, Tal, Larsen and many other greats. On playchess.com the American's comments on what is happening are always eloquent and competent.

4. "Power Play" show with Daniel King
In the DVD series with the same name the former leading English player talks about a multitude of themes, motifs and strategies which are all worth knowing. What is required for a successful attack on the king? How do you improve the cooperation of your own pieces? etc. etc. The "Power Play" show extends your chess know-how in an extremely entertaining fashion.

5. Ask the experts – what you always wanted to know
Spectators ask, experts answer. Right from the start this new format was very popular on playchess.com. No wonder, because in the first six broadcasts questions from premium members were fielded by, for example, Peter Svidler, Rustam Kasimdzhanov, Victor Bologan and Jan Gustafsson. Grab the opportunity! Ask a genuine expert what he thinks about some idea in your favourite opening line!

6. "Endgame Magic" show with GM Karsten Müller
In his monthly show, the leading international endgame expert Dr. Karsten Müller singles out endgames from recent tournament practice and passes on entertaining insights into the constantly amazing world of the endgame.

7. Learning from the masters means masterly learning!
Playchess.com offers you a complete training programme – from traps in the opening all the way through to endgame theory. IM Robert Ris explains the openings and shows you sharp surprise weapons. IM van Delft puts recent grandmaster games under the microscope and along with the spectators analyses the plans of these connoisseurs.

Chess Olympiad live commentary by:

Daniel King, Yasser Seirawan, Lawrence Trent

Premium membership for one year
Order now at www.playchess.com € 49,90

FRITZ 13 chess program
Including six months Premium membership, database with 1.5 million games, and 5 hours of Fritz Trainer videos € 49,90

DEEP FRITZ 13 chess program
Including one year Premium membership, ChessBase Engine Cloud, improved version of the Fritz13 engine for multiprocessor systems etc. € 99,90

NEW! Gratis app for playchess.com
Finally it's there: the playchess.com app for iPhone and iPad! Play whenever and whoever you want. Watch the top tournaments with star games live. Download at iTunes now! Free use for Playchess members.

Auch für iPad / iPhone

CHESSBASE GMBH · OSTERBEKSTRASSE 90A · D-22083 HAMBURG · TEL ++(49) 40/639060-12 · FAX ++(49) 40/6301282 · WWW.CHESSBASE.COM · INFO@CHESSBASE.COM
CHESSBASE DEALER: NEW IN CHESS · P.O. Box 1093 · NL-1810 KB Alkmaar · phone (+31)72 5127137 · fax (+31)72 5158234 · **WWW.NEWINCHESS.COM**

Dortmund

New Dortmund King, Caruana

DAGOBERT KOHLMEYER

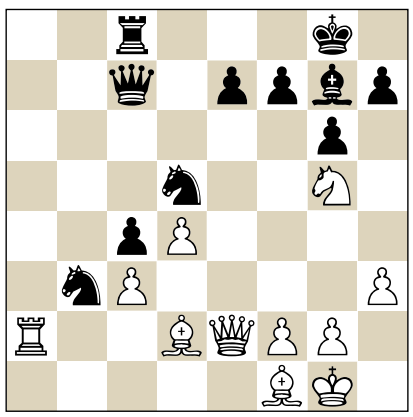
Fabiano Caruana, now solidly in the top ten, and currently the world's most active elite grandmaster, finally scored his first super tournament victory, just in time for his twentieth birthday. The chess world's latest shooting star, while barely edging Sergey Karjakin on tiebreak, managed to beat perennial 'Dortmund Schachkönig' (chess king) Vladimir Kramnik in the penultimate round, for the second time in as many months. **Macauley Peterson** reports from the fortieth anniversary edition of Germany's premier tournament.

Each summer the Dortmund Playhouse theatre briefly goes dark for a holiday, providing a window of opportunity for a select group of grandmasters to take the stage. The lighting... dramatic. The opening theory... extensive. The winner... usually Kramnik. But for the fortieth jubilee event, there were a few changes on the scene.

Noticeable at a glance: five boards filled the stage, as the field was expanded – for the first time since the 2008 financial crisis – from the usual six players, to ten. Typically the Dortmund lineup includes one or two German players, but this year, with additional financial support from the German Chess Federation, the organizers decided to invite the entire European Championship-winning team of Arkadij Naiditsch, Daniel Fridman, Georg Meier and Jan Gustafsson. They, along with Mateusz Bartel of Poland, rounded out the bottom half.

At the top of the *Teilnehmerliste* (players list) was Kramnik, who has won the annual Sparkassen Chess Meeting a record ten times and was unsurprisingly the co-leader for much of the tournament, starting from Round 2. But in a striking turn of events, he failed to convert a winning endgame in Round 7 against Peter Leko, and the resulting draw, conceded after eight hours of play, weighed heavily on him for the fateful game with Caruana.

In the final rounds the pieces fell nicely into place for Caruana, who recovered from an early loss to Ponomariov in Round 2.



Ponomariov-Caruana
position after 30...♘b3

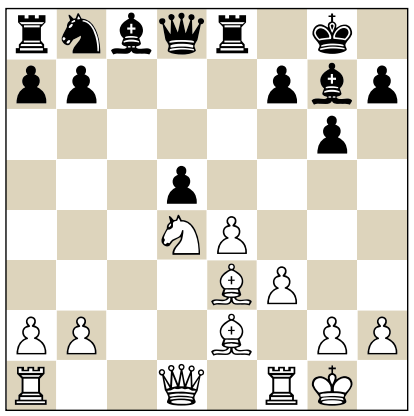
MACAULEY PETERSON

Ruslan Ponomariov brought his compatriot Vladimir Baklan to Dortmund. Everything went smoothly till they both overslept and missed breakfast on the day of Round 6.

31.♕xc4 ♘xd2?
31...♕b7 would have maintained equality, but the text is a dreadful blunder on account of:
32.♕xd5 ♘xf1 33.♘xf7
Far stronger than the alternative 33.♕xf7+ ♔h8 34.♕e6 (on 34.♘e6 Black escapes with 34...♕h2+ 35.♔xf1 ♗f6 36.♘c5 ♕h1+ 37.♔e2 ♕xg2) 34...♗f6 35.♘e4 ♗xd4! 36.♔xf1 (36.cxd4 ♕c1) 36...♗e5.
33...e6
After 33...♕c4 White has 34.♘h6+! ♔h8 35.♕xc4 ♖xc4 36.♖a8+ ♗f8 37.♖xf8+ ♔g7 38.♖f7+ ♔xh6 39.♔xf1, with a winning rook ending.
34.♕xe6 ♖f8 35.♘e5+ ♔h8 36.♔xf1
Black resigned.

At the time, the game was somewhat overshadowed by events at stage centre, where, playing black against Gustafsson, Kramnik stunned the spectators and commentators alike by opening with the King's Indian Defence.

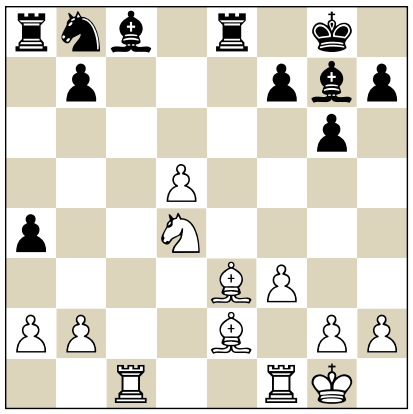
Kramnik has virtually *never* been on the *black* side of a KID in competition, and is renowned for pioneering theory on the white side. There was surprise value gained, to be sure (remember what he said about the KID in the previous issue? 'Not because it's a bad opening – although of course it's a bad opening!' see New In Chess 2012/5, p.32), but Kramnik went for it after noticing a couple of Gustafsson's prior games in which this position occurred:



Gustafsson-Kramnik
position after 12...cxd5

13.♖c1 Jan has also played 13.♕b3 immediately here.
13...a5 14.♕b3 Faced with Kramnik's prepared novelty, Gustafsson thought for over an hour about his next two moves.

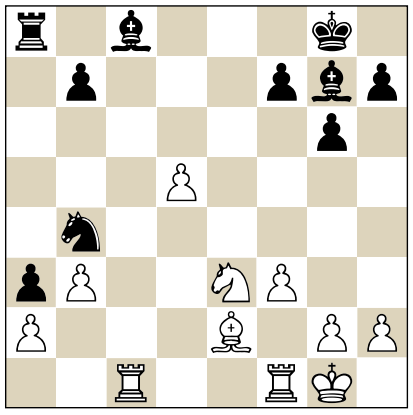
14...a4 15.♕xd5 ♕xd5 16.exd5



16...a3!?

Kramnik considered 16...♘c6 17.♘c2 ♘e7 to pose White few problems.

17.b3 ♘c6 18.♘c2 ♖xe3! 19.♘xe3 ♘b4



20.♖c4

20.♖c7 ♗d4 looks dangerous for White, but after 21.♖e7 ♘xa2 (or 21...♘xd5 22.♖e8+ ♔g7 23.♔h1 ♘xe3 – 23...♗xe3 24.♗c4 – 24.♖c1 and White keeps the balance) 22.♖e8+ ♔g7 23.d6! he can hang on.

20...♘xa2 21.♖a4

Kramnik thought this to be the losing move, but noted that the position was difficult in any case.

> 'Kramnik has an overwhelming record against players under 2700 of late.'

21...♖xa4 22.bxa4 ♗d4 23.♔f2 ♘b4 24.♖c1

Here, 24.♖d1 ♗a7 25.♗c4 ♘c2 wins the knight.

24...a2! 25.♖xc8+ ♔g7 26.♖c1 ♘xd5 27.♖d1 ♘xe3 And the pawn queens. White resigned.

Kramnik has an overwhelming record against players under 2700 of late. Since the start of 2011, he's amassed 13 wins, 4 draws, and no losses.

DAGOBERT KOHLMEYER

The sensation of Round 2. Vladimir Kramnik defeated Jan Gustafsson with the King's Indian. 'Of course, it's a bad opening!'

For Gustafsson, this defeat would be the first of many, as he finished winless, with draws only against his three fellow 2600s. This year has marked a turning point in his professional career, as he has embarked on a new online chess platform under development by a Hamburg-based startup called Cisha, where he serves as Chief Operating Officer. Although he took time out for a training camp with Paco Vallejo before Dortmund, it was not enough to get him back into professional playing shape. But Jan doesn't want to make excuses, he says. 'Bottom line is I just played terribly.'

Kramnik continued by beating Bartel in Round 3. Bartel, this year's qualifier from the Aeroflot Open (a Dortmund tradition), had a horrible start with losses to Meier and Karjakin. In his first super tournament appearance he was bound to have problems but was nevertheless disappointed at his debut.

'I came here for some education, and *there is* no education if right from the beginning I am completely lost – like after fifteen moves', said the twenty-seven-year-old Polish Champion. 'Only in the third round versus Kramnik, I started to play more or less normally. I lost because I played *Kramnik*, not because I was playing badly.'

Speaking after the tournament, Bartel said he had actually done quite a lot of work on his opening preparation in the months before Dortmund, and it was the early middlegame where he struggled.

'For example, in my game versus Sergey (Karjakin) I was quite happy because the theory ended quite quickly, the position was playable I think, but I made three moves and I was completely lost. It is not like I was losing games because my opponents were brilliantly prepared, they were showing some novelties or something. Simply the positions they got were playable and they played better.'

Dortmund has traditionally performed the drawing of lots months in advance, giving players ample time to prepare for each opponent. Some players took advantage of this more than others. For instance, both top finishers had other events to prepare for in recent months. Caruana had played a whopping forty-eight rated games this spring, with almost no breaks.

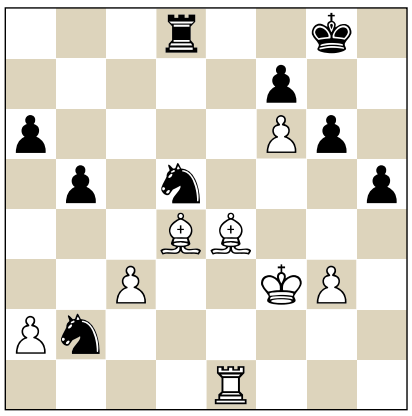
Bartel focused on his black repertoire, partly because he received five blacks in the draw, but also because of his impression of the state of modern theory. 'It's quite easy, well, in comparison to white, to find some equal positions with black. But to find a playable, slightly better position with white, it's almost impossible,' he explained, 'everybody is dreaming to find something like that, but all those paths are kind of known, so it's much more difficult.'

This bifurcated approach, however, led Bartel to score just one half point from his white games.

Ruslan Ponomariov, the Dortmund winner in 2010, prepared well for the tournament. Following the Russian Higher League at the end of June, he had training sessions with GMs Alexander Areschenko and Vladimir Baklan – the latter also came with him to Dortmund.

'I had lots of interesting ideas somehow. I played 1.e4 here, lots of times. I also decided to return to the Queen's Gambit Accepted, which I played in the match against Ivanchuk where I became world champion', he observed, referring to the FIDE World Championship, held in Moscow in 2002.

After knocking off Caruana and Meier in Rounds 2 and 3, Ponomariov remained tied for the lead, until stumbling in Round 6, in a surprising upset by Bartel.

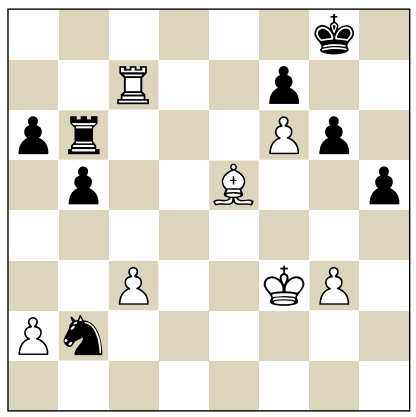


Ponomariov-Bartel
position after 39.♔f3

MACAULEY PETERSON

Mateusz Bartel, this year's qualifier from the Aeroflot Open, had come to Dortmund for 'some education', but wasn't amused when the lessons included six losses.

39...♘c7
Black is up a pawn, but White has a chance to cash in his bishop pair for two pawns and an active rook. Instead, Ponomariov overreached with:
40.♗b7
40.♗xg6 fxg6 41.♖e7 ♖xd4 (41...♘e8 42.f7+ ♔f8 43.fxe8♕+ ♖xe8 44.♖a7 ♖e6 should be a draw) 42.cxd4 ♘d5 43.♖g7+ ♔f8 44.♖xg6 is equal.
40...♖b8
If the bishop retreats, Black gains an edge after 41...♘e6, so therefore:
41.♖e7 ♖xb7 42.♗e5 ♖b6 43.♖xc7



White wins back the material, but his bishop has limited scope, and Black's pieces are better coordinated to attack White's weak pawns.
43...♘c4 44.♗d4 ♖e6 45.♔f4 ♘d6 46.♖a7 ♘f5 47.♗e5 ♘xg3 48.♖e7 White cannot afford to trade any more pieces, but will soon lose another pawn.
48...♘f5 49.♖d7 ♘h6 50.♖e7 ♘g4 51.♗d4 ♔f8 White resigned.

Ponomariov speculated that after spoiling an opening advantage, it was hard for him to concede a draw. 'It's difficult to find a clear explanation for me. My second, Vladimir Baklan, told me that our main mistake was that this was the only one day when we missed breakfast in the hotel', Ponomariov noted with amusement. Normally, the pair met each morning at 10, but on the morning of Round 6 they overslept. 'So after this he told me we should go to have breakfast every day.'

Bartel's coup was the only solace in an otherwise grim ten days of chess.

'If I would have lost that game and made one out of nine, I would surely quit chess', he joked. 'But as I won versus Ruslan, I still think maybe I can play', he said. Objectively, he acknowledged some help from his opponent. 'I won that game only because of the fact that he was pressing too much... So it's not really like *I won*, rather *he lost* that game.'

So, Ponomariov dropped out of the lead, but in a tight field Kramnik and Karjakin were joined by the German number one Arkadij Naiditsch, who dealt Gustafsson his fourth loss in a twenty-five move miniature.

Naiditsch played well throughout the tournament, despite suffering from a limp caused by an infection behind his right knee. This was widely – though wrongly – reported as an insect bite gone haywire, but in fact it's not known what caused the German's malady. The rumour was 'more a fun story by Gerd (Kolbe, the lead organizer)', Naiditsch explained after the closing ceremony. 'The doctor asked me if I'm working a lot in a garden. I said, no probably not.' He laughed at the suggestion. An insect bite was one possible cause.

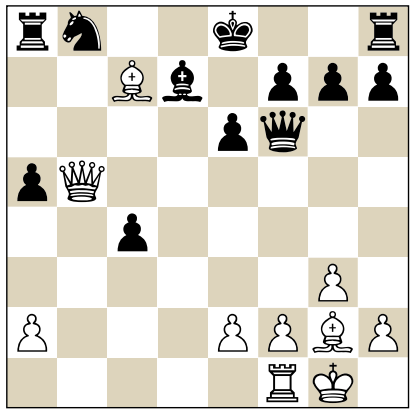
Naiditsch insisted that the irritation was no more than a nuisance, and while it required a trip to the hospital for antibiotics and special bandaging, he was in no pain and it had no impact on his play. 'We're playing chess, we're not playing soccer!'

In the penultimate round, Naiditsch had a chance to move into the sole lead with black against Fridman.

The game followed ultra-sharp theory – notably Miroshnichenko-Kasimdzhanov, Turkish Team Championship, 2010.

CA 3.3 – E04
Daniel Fridman
Arkadij Naiditsch
Dortmund 2012 (8)

1.d4 ♘f6 2.c4 e6 3.♘f3 d5 4.g3 dxc4 5.♗g2 a6 6.♘e5 ♗b4+ 7.♘c3 ♘d5 8.0-0 ♘xc3 9.bxc3 ♗xc3 10.♖b1 ♕xd4 11.♕a4+ b5 12.♕a3 ♕xe5 13.♗f4 ♕f6 14.♗xc7 b4 15.♖xb4 ♗xb4 16.♕xb4 a5 17.♕b5+ ♗d7

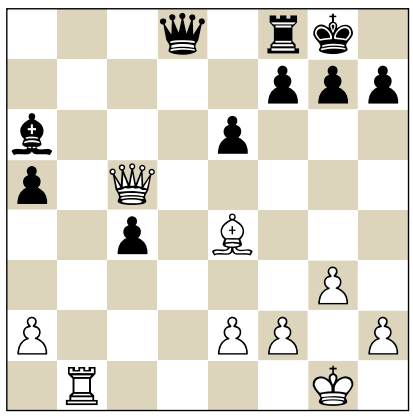


18.♕b6?!

'The main line is ♕xc4', Naiditsch explained, after which ...♘a6 is also the primary response. '♕b6 is just the same position with the pawn on c4, so he made a huge mistake in the opening, and afterwards I thought that maybe he would give me a chance to win... the position is still a draw – but I think I found quite some tricky chances.'

18.♕xc4 ♘a6 19.♗xa8 ♘xc7 20.♕xc7 ♕d8 21.♕a7 0-0 22.♗f3 ♗a4 23.♖c1 ♕d2 24.♖c5 ♕xa2 25.♕xa5 ♗b3 26.♔g2 ♕xa5 27.♖xa5 h6 28.h4 ♖d8 29.♖a8 ♖xa8 30.♗xa8 draw, Miroshnichenko-Kasimdzhanov, Konya 2010.

18...♘a6 19.♗xa8 ♘xc7 20.♕xc7 ♕d8 21.♕a7 0-0 22.♗e4 ♗c8 23.♕c5 ♗a6 24.♖b1



24...♕d2

An exchange sacrifice, one of the 'tricky chances'. Naiditsch was hoping that since it was clearly not Fridman's best day, he might yet take the extra half point.

A familiar scene for the 40th

While 2012 was a jubilee for the Sparkassen Chess Meeting, there were few visible changes to herald the occasion.

One exception was the opening ceremony and party held at the Spiegelzelt, an historic tent whose decor dates back to early 20th century Holland, which is set up for the summer at the U-Tower. The U-Tower itself was once part of a brewery, but is now a central Dortmund landmark, and videos of chess imagery could be seen at its peak during the festival.

Many of the traditional details remained immutable; the design of the stage, the live commentary in German – only for spectators visiting the playing venue – even the program and posters are largely indistinguishable from year to year.

One welcome departure was the dropping of the fifteen-minute delay on the moves for those visiting the press room. The delay – a rarely used anti-cheating measure – was still in effect for the Internet relay, but visiting press were finally able to follow the games more or less 'live'. There was still a 3-minute lag – an unfortunate side effect of the technical design employed – but it was a marked improvement over previous years, which often saw players arriving in the press room to analyse while journalists and guests remained oblivious to the result. Even worse, key decisive games could end, and the players might leave the venue for their hotel before anyone knew what had happened.

There was some speculation about the 40th anniversary being the last, but according to tournament director Stefan Koth, those fears are utterly without merit. The tournament will continue next year with preliminary dates of July 25th to August 4th – safely after the scheduled FIDE Grand Prix tournament in Berlin. ■

25.♗xh7+ ♔xh7 26.♕xf8 ♕xa2 27.♖b8 ♕a1+ 28.♔g2 ♕e5 29.h4 c3 30.h5 ♕xh5 31.♕h8+ ♔g6 32.♕xh5+ ♔xh5 33.♖b3 ♗xe2 34.♖xc3 a4 35.♖c7 ♔g6 36.♖a7 ♗d1 37.f4 f5 38.♔f2 ♔f6 39.♔e3 ♗b3 40.♔d4 g5 41.♖a8 gxf4 42.gxf4 ♗d1 43.♖a6 ♗b3 44.♖a8 ♗d1 45.♖a6 ♗b3
Draw.

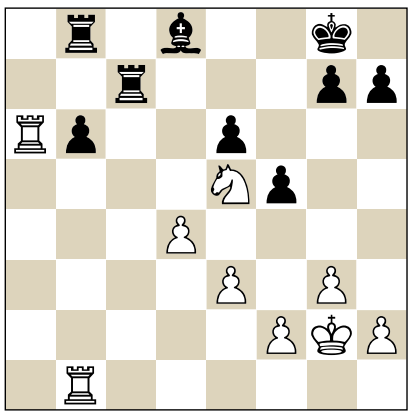
'But he defended well, so it was just a draw', and Naiditsch remained on a +2 score.

The tournament was wide open going into the final round. Ponomariov, Karjakin, Caruana, Leko and Naiditsch all shared the lead. With the first tiebreak consisting of the number of black games, and the second the number of wins, Ponomariov had the best tiebreaks, followed by Naiditsch, with Leko having the worst.

Leko solidly accumulated half points, punctuated by just two wins over Gustafsson and Bartel. His Round 4 draw against Caruana could have sparked a breakout, but ended in a draw. 'I blew an easy win against Caruana', he summarized in brief the fascinating duel that he annotates further on.

Leko is one who enjoys the rich opening preparation which the early drawing of lots allows. 'Basically the whole of June I spent preparing... And I saw from the drawing of lots that I have five white games, and that's why I decided in my preparation to put the accent on the white games, because I thought that I should try to use the maximum out of the white games', he explained – the opposite of Bartel's preparation strategy.

Leko's marathon game in Round 7 against Kramnik will be long remembered by both players. Rarely does Kramnik fail to convert a position such as this.



Kramnik-Leko
position after 36.♔g2

36...♗f6?
After about a minute of thinking, Kramnik responded:
37.♘d3?
Both players had overlooked the winning blow 37.♖bxb6! – the back rank weakness leads to the loss of a second pawn.
37...♖cb7 38.♖b5 ♗d8 39.♖e5 ♖e7 40.♘f4
40.d5! exd5 (or 40...♖d7 41.♘b4 exd5 42.♖xf5) 41.♖xf5 ♖d7 42.♘b4 – with ♘c6 in the air, the d-pawn cannot be saved.
40...♔f7
Leko was in severe time-trouble but managed to reach move 40 with a playable position and went on to save the draw after 134 moves.

'It's simply difficult to explain', Kramnik said, reflecting back on this

> 'Hearing with amazement that his game had only just finished, they reopened the kitchen. Leko won the next day.'

sequence in the game. 'It's just some kind of blackout that I don't win in two moves like three or four times without any time-trouble. I don't know, somehow it's things I have to work on... I will make probably a kind of psychoanalysis with myself, just trying to recover what was going on in my head.'

Leko also took a stab at an explanation, suggesting they missed ♖bxb6 'because 37.♘d3 was so logical. I was down on time, I finally attacked his knight with ...♗f6 and his whole advantage of the position is his strong knight, which dominates the board, which dominates my bishop, and his d4-e3-f2 pawn chain. So basically my dream is to get rid of this knight, even if I'm losing a pawn or whatever.'

Kramnik had considered simply an exchange of rooks on b6, followed by swapping on e5 and ...♔f7, which was drawish, so he opted for ♘d3. 'And then I checked, and I checked again, and that was it... It's the same kind of thing like I did with Magnus in London two years ago, just something absolutely unbelievable, which no other top ten player ever does. OK, I don't even mention this mate in one which I blundered with this computer (Kramnik vs Deep Fritz, 2006 – MP). So there is probably something in my mind which sometimes gets a total blackout. Maybe there is nothing to do about it.'

Kramnik tried mightily to win, and the game continued an *additional* 94 moves!

'I don't remember playing eight hours ever', Leko said, with just a hint of pride. 'After eight hours to draw such a game, of course I was extremely tired, but relieved.'

After the game, Peter and his wife Sophie went to a local Thai restaurant that was their favourite place for dinner. It was after 11.00 p.m., and the staff were busy cleaning up in preparation for closing. But, upon seeing the hungry Hungarian grandmaster, and hearing with amazement that his game had only just finished, they quickly reopened the kitchen for the couple. Leko won the next day.

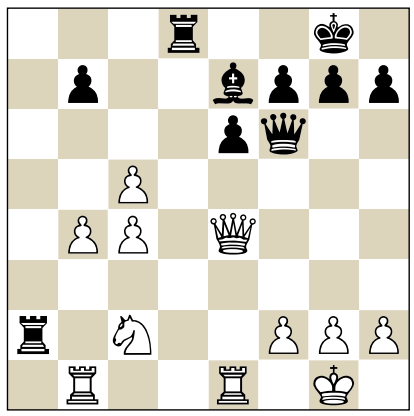
MACAULEY PETERSON

Although he played with an infection behind his right knee, Arkadij Naiditsch denied that the discomfort had effected his play. 'We're playing chess, we're not playing football.'

Kramnik on the other hand was physically drained for his critical game with Caruana, but doesn't take anything away from his young opponent. 'I have to say that Fabiano played a very good game. He won deservedly, and actually I played better than I thought I would play, because I was in such a terrible shape physically.'

A string of blunders, and failing to convert winning positions, which Kramnik fears is attributable to age and dwindling stamina, has recently prompted him to hire a personal trainer in Paris to improve his conditioning. 'With these last two tournaments, Moscow and Dortmund, the picture is crystal clear.'

The final round saw Naiditsch white against Leko as the only head-to-head among the leaders. A win would almost certainly be necessary for first place. Both players were surprised by the opening, and the game was played at very high level, with roughly equal chances throughout. Leko became excited when he saw an opportunity to double rooks on the second rank.

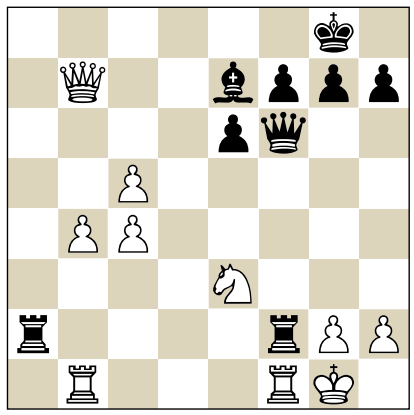


Naiditsch-Leko
position after 24...♖a2

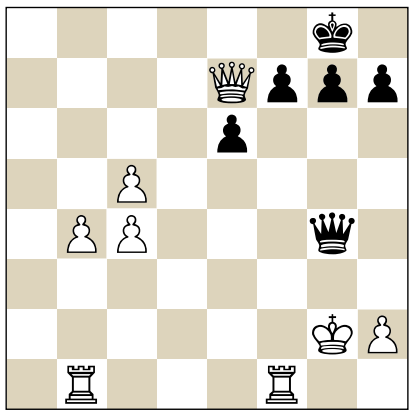
25.♖f1 ♖d2 26.♘e3 ♖xf2

'Normally such a ...♖xf2 leads to total collapse of the opponent's position, but here suddenly the knight on e3 and this pawn-structure allowed him to take ♕xb7 and it was like a shock', Leko admitted.

27.♕xb7



27...♕f4
'First I thought that I will just play ...h6 or ...h5 and I can continue to fight for the initiative, but then I realized that after ♕xb7 he's threatening to come back to ♕e4 and he defends everything... It's clear that somehow White will always find some way to improve his position, maybe some h3 or I mean ♔h1 – anything – can be useful, and then I spotted this beautiful motif.'
28.♕xe7 ♖xg2+ 29.♘xg2 ♖xg2+ 30.♔xg2 ♕g4+



An unusual perpetual check, the queen maintains opposition across the 4th rank.
31.♔h1 ♕e4+ 32.♔g1 ♕g4+ 33.♔f2 ♕f4+ 34.♔e2 ♕e4+ 35.♔d2 ♕d4+ 36.♔e2 ♕e4+ 37.♔d2 ♕d4+ 38.♔e2
Draw.

'We both needed a win, but I mean if the position calls for it, then you have to take it.'

Ponomariov could only muster a draw, while Karjakin inflicted one final loss upon Gustafsson. However, with one fewer win than Caruana, who similarly added a zero to Bartel's crosstable, Karjakin had to settle for the runner-up trophy.

Caruana has made steady progress, impressing many of his peers along the way with his consistency. He has had a seemingly endless streak of tournaments in 2012, and has been invited to the upcoming Sao Paulo/ Bilbao tournament (formerly the final of the defunct 'Grand Slam'). Karjakin received an invitation to the same tournament *during* Dortmund.

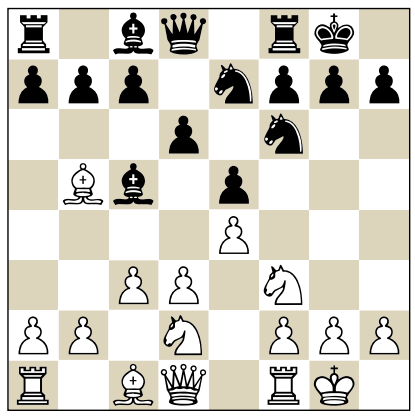
Both players have cemented their positions in the elite and see the dividends to their results and rating as a natural byproduct of hard work.

'You work for a long period of time and the results don't really show, but at some point everything just comes together and you just start to play better, or get more confidence', Caruana noted, echoing a similar statement by Karjakin. 'I'm not really sure exactly what it was, but something changed I guess. Usually, that's how it works.'

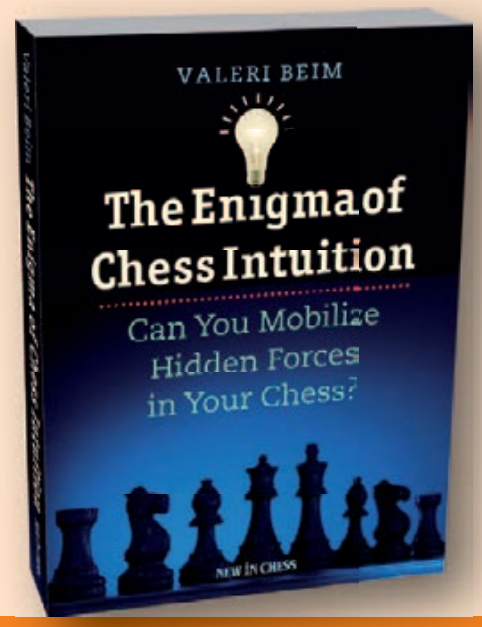
NOTES BY
Fabiano Caruana

RL 7.2 – C65
Fabiano Caruana
Vladimir Kramnik
Dortmund 2012 (8)

It was clear to me from the beginning that this would be a fighting game. Vladimir had just played a very long (nearly eight hours!) and certainly disappointing game against Leko the previous round, so I felt it was a good time to strike.
1.e4 e5 2.♘f3 ♘c6 3.♗b5 ♘f6 4.d3 ♗c5 5.0-0 d6 6.c3 0-0 7.♘bd2 ♘e7



8.d4 This is of course the only testing move. After other moves Black will play ...♘g6, ...c6 and ...♗b6, with a comfortable position.



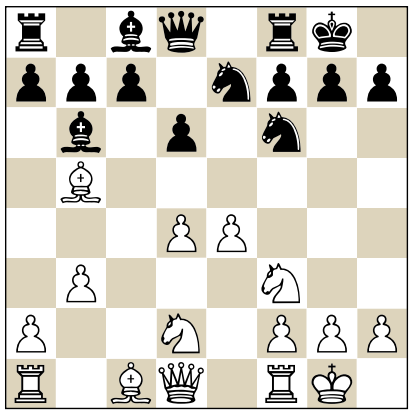
"Bringing all this material together into a coherent and logical complex is, I think, the extraordinary achievement of the author (..) Helps the reader to train and develop his talents."
– German Federation for Correspondence Chess

"Beim demystifies the matter (..) Using excellently presented games, the intuitive way of playing chess is explained in a refreshingly classical and instructive way."
– Der Standard, Vienna

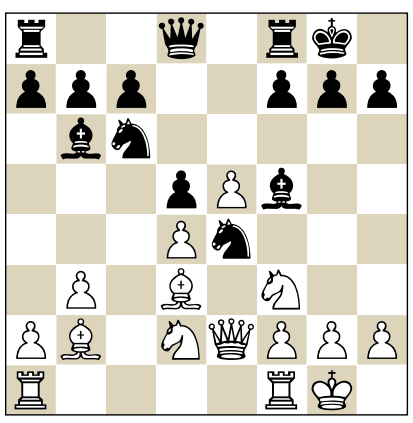
"This book strikes me as an unusual thoughtful one (..) Beim has made a great effort to come up with a coherent theory of intuition, and there is plenty to enjoy along the way."
– Luke McShane

Paperback • 272 pages • € 24.95 • available at your local (chess)bookseller or at newinchess.com • a NEW IN CHESS publication

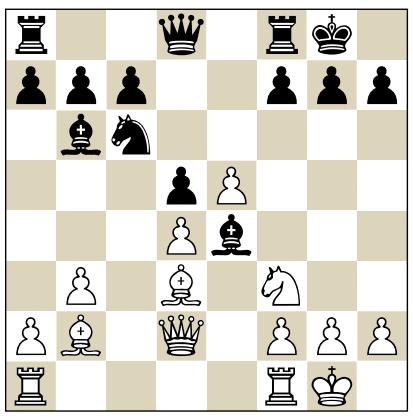
8...exd4 9.cxd4 ♗b6 10.b3
I was told this move looks unusual, but I just wanted to develop my bishop. Other possibilities are 10.h3, 10.♖e1 or 10.♗d3, which all lead to unclear positions.



10...d5
In general this is the principled and correct course of action. The play now becomes very forcing, as Black tries to undermine White's centre.
11.e5 ♘e4 12.♗d3 ♗f5 13.♕e2 ♘c6 14.♗b2



14...♘xd2 15.♕xd2 ♗e4
A crucial move. If Black allows the bishop swap on White's terms, he will face a worse position without active prospects.

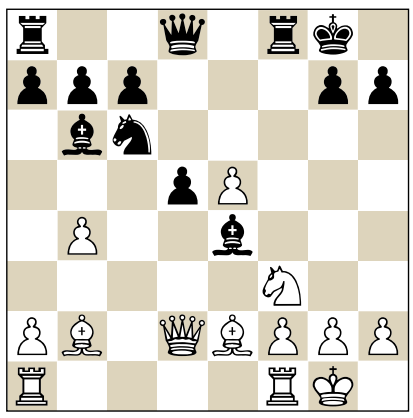


16.♗e2!?
It was difficult to take this decision. The alternative would result in a sterile position, while this leads to double-edged play.
16.♕e3 is the safe option: 16...♗xf3

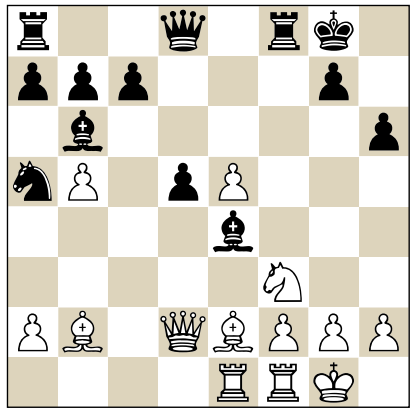
> 'Vladimir had just played a very long game against Leko, so I felt it was a good time to strike.'

17.♕xf3 ♗xd4 18.♗xd4 ♘xd4 19.♗xh7+ ♔xh7 20.♕d3+ ♔g8 21.♕xd4, with a roughly equal position.

16...f6
The computer suggests other options for Black, but I don't see any reason to avoid this move, which is the most natural and principled one.
17.b4! This was my idea when I played 16.♗e2. Now Black will be forced to reckon with the possibility of b5 on each move. Additionally, I prevent ...♗a5.
17...fxe5 18.dxe5
Now Vladimir sank deeply into thought. At first I was very worried I had overlooked something and Black would have a strong attack, but after his indecisiveness I became more at ease.

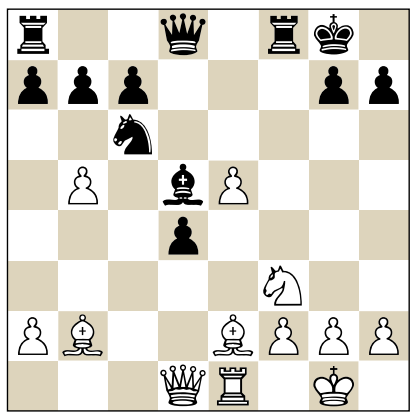


18...♔h8?!
This move doesn't meet the demands of the position. Black had two viable options, one aggressive and one prophylactic.
I was expecting 18...h6, which prevents ♘g5, and I wasn't sure how the position should be assessed after 19.b5 ♘a5 20.♖ae1.



ANALYSIS DIAGRAM

Here, the computer points out a strong idea: 20...c6, undermining the b5-pawn, with a satisfactory position.
The other possibility, which I hadn't taken seriously during the game, is 18...d4!?, immediately starting aggressive counterplay. The positions after this move are incredibly complex, with variations branching out after every move. A possible continuation out of many is 19.♖ae1 ♗d5 20.b5 ♗a5 21.♕d1 ♗xe1 22.♖xe1



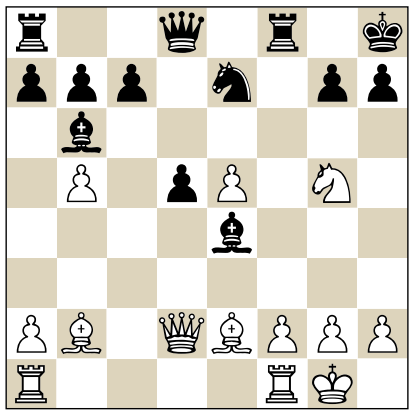
ANALYSIS DIAGRAM

and the machine estimates this as roughly equal, although it's not clear to me exactly what's going on at first sight!
19.b5 ♘e7
The problem for Black, compared to

18...h6, is that after 19...♘a5, White has the strong 20.♘g5.

20.♘g5

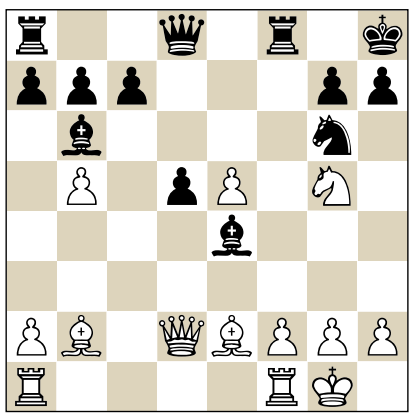
This move isn't bad, but 20.♘d4 was stronger and less complicated; after 20...♘f5 21.f3 ♘xd4 22.♗xd4 ♗g6 23.♖ac1, White has a stable positional advantage.



20...♘g6

A very natural move. It seems as if Black is getting a strong initiative, but after my next move it becomes clear that White has everything under control.

Perhaps better chances were offered by 20...♘f5 21.e6 (21.♘e6? ♕h4 22.♘xf8 ♖xf8 gives Black a strong attack) 21...♕e7, but after the accurate 22.a4! Black is still clearly worse.



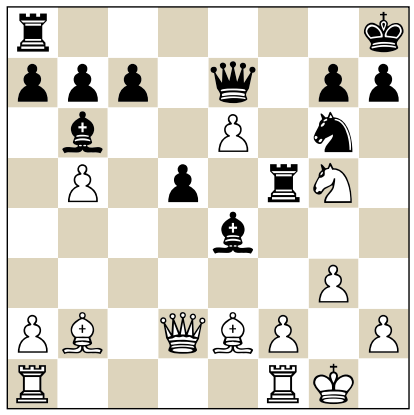
21.g3!

Simply preventing ...♘f4. Next White can consider ideas like e6, h4-h5 or just taking the bishop on e4 at the right moment.

21...♕e7

21...♗a5 is met by the calm 22.♕c1.

22.e6 ♖f5



23.♘xe4

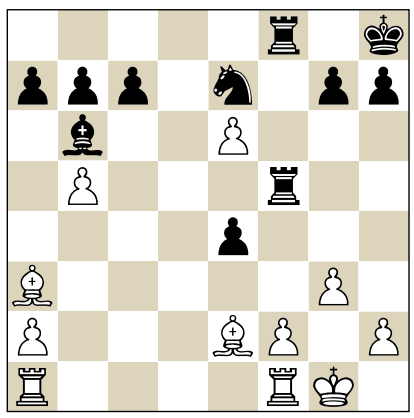
A good time to trade, since I'm ready to invade on d7 and head towards an endgame.

23...dxe4 24.♕d7 ♖af8 25.♕xe7

Again simplest is strongest!

In case of 25.♔h1, Black can consider a move like 25...♗c5, and when the bishop comes to d6, it won't be easy to break through Black's defence.

25...♘xe7 26.♗a3

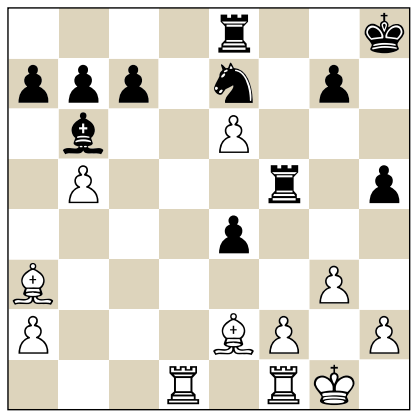


26...♖e8 A good move, which I had underestimated. I was expecting 26...♗c5 27.♗xc5 ♖xc5 28.♖ac1 ♖xc1 29.♖xc1 c6 30.♖d1, with a decisive advantage for White.

27.♖ad1 h5?

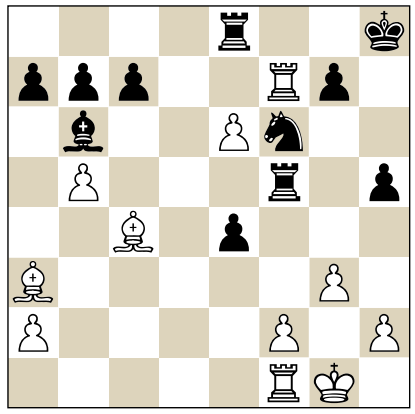
The idea behind this move is to prevent g4, but it's too slow.

Black should have gone for the exchange sacrifice with 27...♘d5 28.g4 ♖e5 29.♗b2 ♖8xe6 30.♗c4 c6 31.bxc6 bxc6 32.♗xe5 ♖xe5, with good drawing chances.



28.♖d7 Now it's hard to find any salvation for Black.

28...♘d5 29.♖f7 ♘f6 30.♗c4



White has complete control, and with the rook on f7 Black can hardly move.

Susan Polgar Chess Daily News

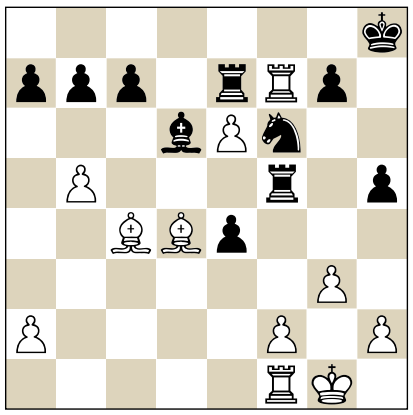
Everything you need within your fingertips

Bringing you updated, timely, fair, and objective chess daily news and information from around the globe

News * Puzzles * Improvement Tips * Analysis * Videos * Trivia * and much more

www.ChessDailyNews.com

30...♗c5 31.♗b2 ♖e7 32.♗d4 ♗d6

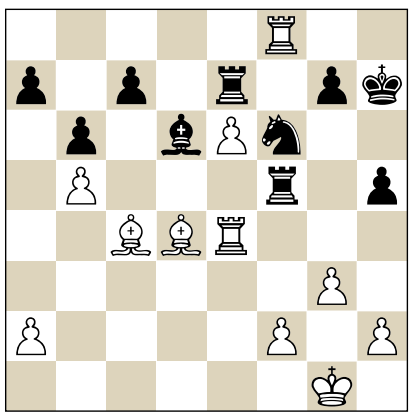


33.♖e1 A reasonable move, but maybe not the most accurate. After the strong 33.f3!, Black would be unable to capture on f3, so fxe4 will open the position with decisive effect.

33...b6 Black should have avoided ♖xe4 with 33...♔h7. Here White can try 34.f4!?, and since Black can hardly move White has unlimited time to improve his position.

34.♖f8+ ♔h7 35.♖xe4

Winning a pawn. Kramnik tries a last desperate shot .... which nearly works!



35...♖xf2!? 35...♘xe4 36.♖xf5 ♔g6 37.♖f3 is clearly hopeless for Black.

36.♔xf2?

A huge mistake made in time-trouble, which greatly endangers the win.

After the cool 36.♖e1! Black would have faced a hopeless situation: 36...♖d2 37.♗e3 ♗c5 38.♗xc5 bxc5 39.♖f7, and it's all over.

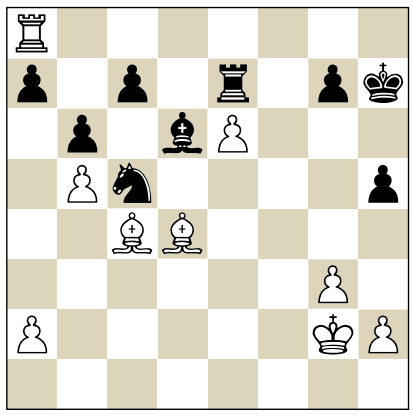
36...♘xe4+ 37.♔g2 ♘c5

Now I realized, to my great disappointment, that the b3-square is controlled by Black's knight, so there's no way to switch to the b1-h7 diagonal.

38.♖a8

MACAULEY PETERSON

Only days before he turned 20, Fabiano Caruana won his first super-tournament.



38...♘xe6??

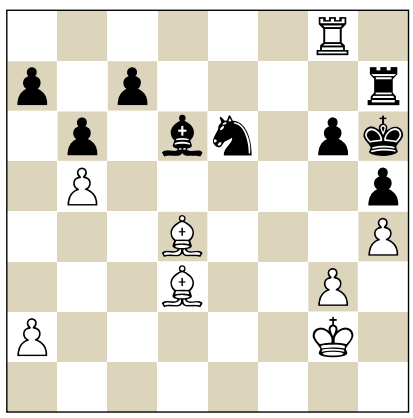
A very surprising blunder. Black was close to the draw, but after this greedy capture I can weave a deadly net around his king.

38...♔g6 forces the trade of White's bishop: 39.♗xc5 ♗xc5 40.♖xa7 ♔f6 41.♖a8 g6, and Black makes a draw.

39.♗d3+ ♔h6 40.h4

40.♗e3+ g5 41.♖g8 is even faster.

40...g6 41.♖h8+ ♖h7 42.♖g8



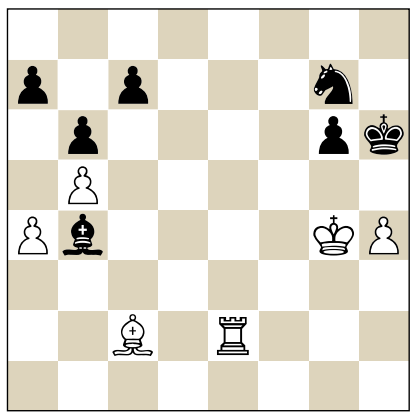
Now everything becomes clear. Black must sacrifice the exchange.

42...♖g7 43.♗xg7+ ♔h7 44.♖e8 ♘xg7 45.♖e3

More accurate than taking the a7-pawn. Black is nearly unable to move his pieces, and soon he will be forced into zugzwang.

45...♔h6 46.a4 Slow and steady.

46...♔h7 47.♔h3 ♔h6 48.♗c2 ♔h7 49.g4 hxg4+ 50.♔xg4 ♔h6 51.♖e2 ♗b4



52.♖e5 The lethal switch to g5.

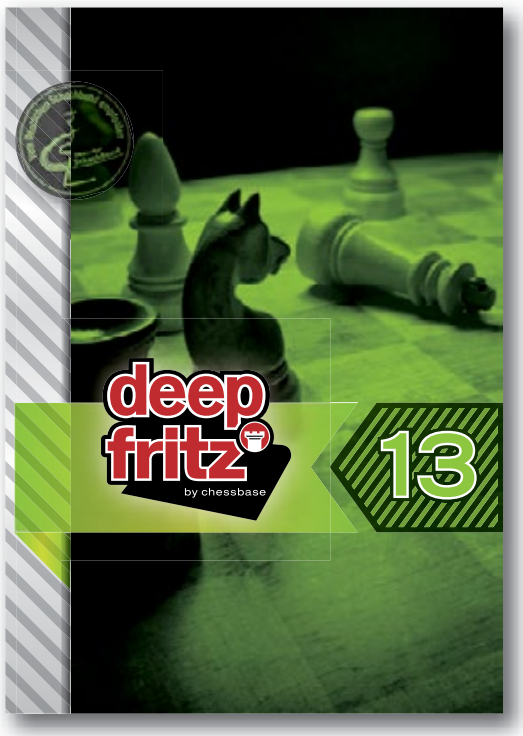
52...♘h5 53.♖e6

Black resigned. I really enjoyed this game with its creative, unusual play that resulted from the opening. After this win I climbed into shared first place, and with some luck in the final round I managed to clinch first place on tiebreaks.

Including 1 year's premium membership of playchess.com!

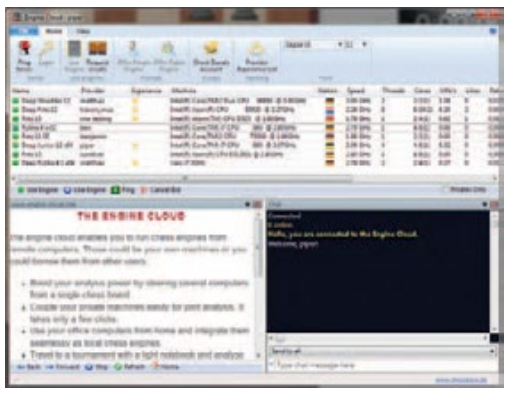
Deep Fritz 13

Now with the ChessBase Engine Cloud!



DeepFritz13: 60% faster than Fritz13!

Chess programs have been high-performance utilities for a long time now. The higher your system performance, the greater the value they will be to you. But with multi-processor systems that only works if you have a "deep" version, because it is only then that the program can make use of several processor cores in order to calculate simultaneously. Things are no different with the new Deep Fritz 13, on a dual-core computer the engine is already approx. 60 % faster than "little" Fritz 13. And yet things are not the same as they always were with Deep Fritz 13.



World premiere: the ChessBase Engine Cloud

Deep Fritz 13 introduces the innovative "ChessBase Engine Cloud" and revolutionises the way we work with system resources. This new function makes it possible for the very first time to make use of engines backed up by the calculating power of other computers for your own analysis without in doing so overloading your own system. And that can be done in exactly the same way as if you were on your own computer: for deep position analysis, blunder search, engine matches etc. etc. It does not matter whether the engines are working on a table next to you in your study, on the office computer or in a computer centre in Australia.

High-end for everybody!

If you have several computers, link your engines and processing power on a single PC or propose your machine to other users via the "Cloud". This is an especially exciting development for owners of high-performance computers or clusters. The key point: hire processing power from a third party and turn your small laptop or your "old faithful" into a tactical giant and strategic monster at the click of a button!

System requirements:
Minimum: *Pentium III 1 GHz, 1 GB RAM, Windows Vista, XP (Service Pack 3), DirectX9 graphics card with 256 MB RAM, DVD-ROM drive, Windows Media Player 9 and Internet access to activate the program, playchess.com, Let's Check and updates.* ***Recommended:*** *PC Intel Core 2 Duo, 2.4 GHz, 3 GB RAM, Windows 7, DirectX10 graphics card (or compatible) with 512 MB RAM or more, 100% DirectX10 compatible sound card, Windows Media Player 11, DVD ROM drive and Internet access to activate the program, playchess.com, Let's Check and updates.*

The advantages at a glance

1. Optimise your analysis.
Working with engines running concurrently really makes sense for the first time. Concurrently running Cloud Engines can, on the other hand, without any loss of performance, take on different tasks. Example: one engine is operating in the slower mode of calculating more variations so as to point out how sharp the position is. Another is dealing with only one single main line and thus achieves greater depth of analysis functioning as a tactical scout.

2. Save your resources.
Anyone using a "Deep" Engine with a notebook is well aware of the howling of the cooling fan which is striving to keep down the temperature of the processor because a chess engine always puts the CPU on full load and can rapidly drain the battery of a notebook. If, on the other hand, Cloud Engines are used, then your machine will work quietly, without overheating and it will go easy on the battery, because all of the processing is taking place elsewhere.

3. Save on expensive hardware.
Serious analysis requires powerful machines. These are expensive, take up a lot of space and depreciate quickly as they age. If when required you use processing power from the Cloud, then you are saving money.

4. The highest level of performance in the shortest time.
If, for example, a correspondence game has reached a critical position, you would like for a short period of time to drastically increase your analysing power. With the Cloud you can now demand the help of a series of powerful engines for your notebook with a single click.

DEEP FRITZ 13 **€ 99,90**

Including:
- **Premium membership of playchess.com for 12 months**
- **ChessBase Engine Cloud**
- **Let's Check function***
- **Improved version of the Fritz13 engine for computers with several processors**
- **Special book by Alex Kure (over 4 million positions)**
- **Database with over 1.5 million games, and much more**

* Access to "Let's Check" database till 31.12.2015

CHESSBASE GMBH · OSTERBEKSTRASSE 90A · D-22083 HAMBURG · TEL ++(49) 40/639060-12 · FAX ++(49) 40/6301282 · WWW.CHESSBASE.COM · INFO@CHESSBASE.COM
CHESSBASE DEALER: NEW IN CHESS · P.O. Box 1093 · NL-1810 KB Alkmaar · phone (+31)72 5127137 · fax (+31)72 5158234 · **WWW.NEWINCHESS.COM**

NOTES BY
Peter Leko

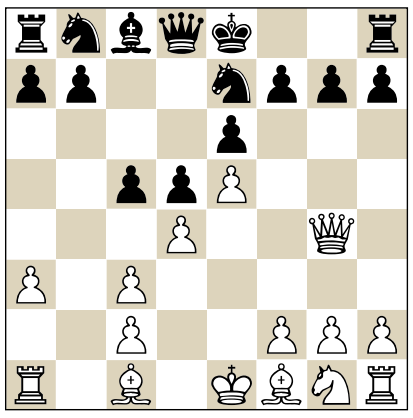
FR 11.8 – C18
Peter Leko
Fabiano Caruana
Dortmund 2012 (4)

Instead of commenting one of my wins I decided to annotate my dramatic game against Caruana! It was something special and it illustrates nicely what kind of fights we had in Dortmund this year!

1.e4 e6

A real surprise, but everybody had already noticed that while against 1.d4 Caruana only plays the Grünfeld, against 1.e4 he comes up with a new opening for each game!

2.d4 d5 3.♘c3 ♗b4 4.e5 c5 5.a3 ♗xc3+ 6.bxc3 ♘e7 7.♕g4



Surprise or not, I decided to play the most challenging move!

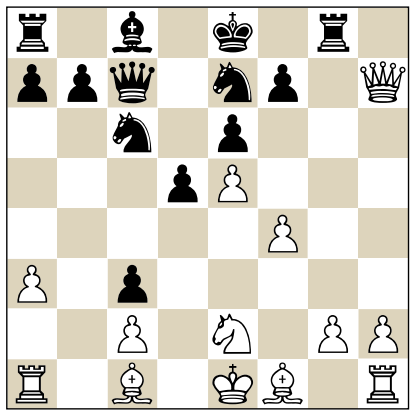
7...cxd4

The modern move order in the Winawer. After the classical 7...♕c7 White also has the option of playing the 8.♗d3 variation, as I did against Shirov in Saratov last year. Interesting to note is that in Round 8 Bartel again played this variation against me and also opted for 7...♕c7. I spent quite a lot of time hesitating which line to go for, finally plumping for 8.♕xg7 because I suspected that he had prepared the whole line before the tournament. Otherwise there would be no way he would use this move order!

8.♕xg7

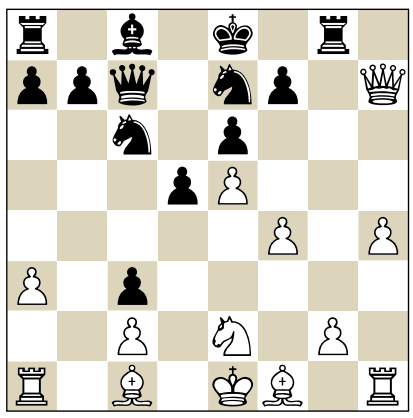
8.cxd4 ♕c7, and now White is forced to play 9.♔d1, which is considered fine for Black.

8...♖g8 9.♕xh7 ♕c7 10.♘e2 ♘bc6 11.f4 dxc3



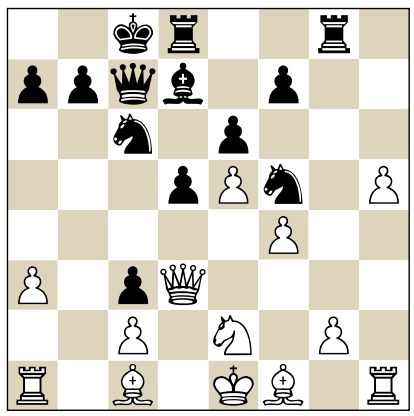
12.♕d3

Taken by surprise by my opponent's opening choice, it took me quite some time to make up my mind which line would be the most practical choice. It was a difficult decision, since objectively speaking there is no 'official good line' in this opening right now. In the end I decided for a line which I had studied before the Jermuk Grand Prix in 2009. The problem is that nowadays, with so much information flying around, it is almost impossible to remember anything you saw just a week ago, never mind three years! However, there was a good reason to go for this line. I remembered that I had also spent time on the position at the board, not only analysing it with a computer (a huge difference in my opinion!), and I believed that there should still be some understanding somewhere deep down in my brain! In Round 8 I deviated with 12.h4.



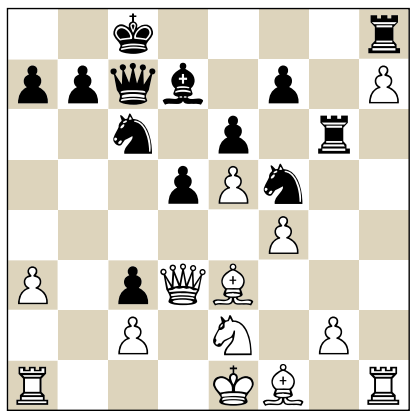
ANALYSIS DIAGRAM

There followed 12...♗d7 13.h5 0-0-0 14.♕d3 ♘f5. I knew that if Black, instead of 14...♘f5, plays 14...d4, 15.h6 is considered good for White. After 14...♘f5 I didn't feel attracted to 15.h6, but having thought for almost half an hour and wanting to get out of my opponent's preparation as quickly as possible, I found an idea that I liked:



ANALYIS DIAGRAM

15.h6 ♖g6 16.h7 ♖h8. The correct response. It's clear that it is only a matter of time before the h-pawn will fall. But I played 17.♗e3!?. This worked, but objectively it yields nothing, although Black had to make a move which was not entirely in the spirit of his play:



ANALYIS DIAGRAM

Here he should have played 17...♘xe3! 18.♕xe3 ♖g7. Now there is no way for Black to hang on to the h7-pawn: 19.♕xc3 ♖gxh7 20.♖xh7 ♖xh7 21.♖b1 and this position is safe for White, but zero advantage!

12...d4 13.♘xd4

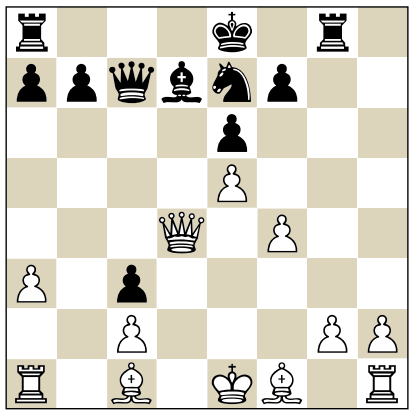
Now 13.h4 is strongly met by 13...b6!, which is known to be fine for Black.

13...♘xd4 14.♕xd4 ♗d7

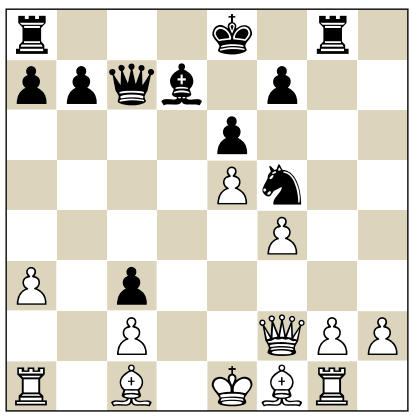
Now the game takes on a very forced character.

MACAULEY PETERSON

Peter Leko and his wife Sophie shortly before the game.
'You're serious? You really think Caruana will play the French?!'

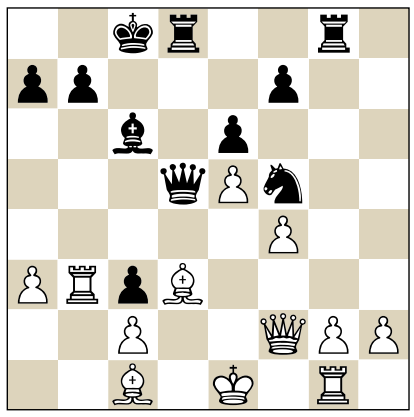


15.♖g1
A necessary move in this position.
15...♘f5 16.♕f2
The best place for the queen.

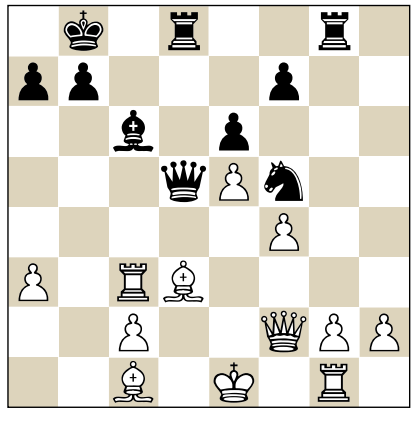


16...♕c6! Black's queen also takes the ideal diagonal.

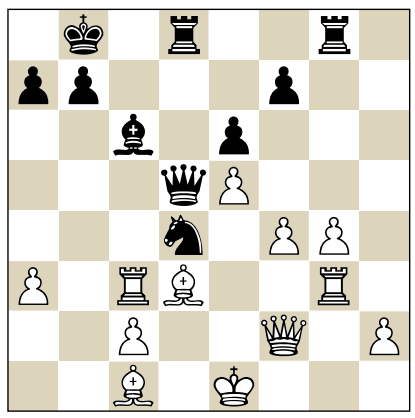
17.♗d3 Now g4 is threatening.
17...♕d5
Black is ready to meet g4 with ...♘d4.
18.♖b1
Deploying another piece, while at the same time preparing to eliminate the c3-pawn, which is very annoying.
18...♗c6
Black slowly puts all his pieces on their best squares.
19.♖b3 0-0-0
Finally everything was ready for queenside castling.



20.♖xc3 ♔b8
A necessary move. We had reached the critical position of the line. White is two pawns up, but Black has excellent compensation and it is not clear how to play with white at all. Without good computers it is almost impossible to give a correct assessment of the position. Now, after the game, I have the feeling that, as so often in modern chess, the most complicated and exciting positions lead to a draw after perfect play from both sides!



21.g4!
I still remembered that this was the critical move, but over the board it looked very risky. Anyway, there is no choice if White is to fight for an advantage.
21...♘d4 22.♖g3
This is the idea. The only way to activate the white rooks is on the third rank. But what about the back rank? This was exactly the question which disturbed me during the game. Black can even take his queen to a2 and then to b1 or directly to h1. Fabiano was still blitzing, whereas I had already spent about 50 minutes to get here.



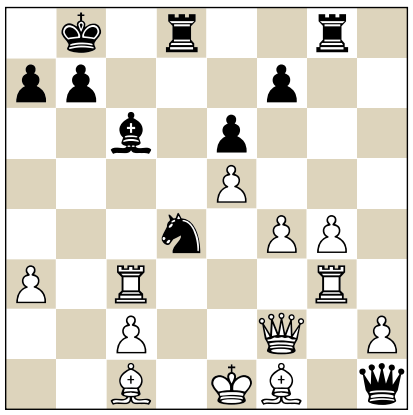
22...♕h1+
After 22...♕a2 I intended to play 23.♗e3!. Targeting the d4-knight was the key idea in all these positions. Basically, this was all I could remember –

Dortmund 2012 cat. XIX

					1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10		TPR
1	Fabiano Caruana	IGM	ITA	2775	*	½	0	1	½	½	½	1	1	1	6	2824
2	Sergey Karjakin	IGM	RUS	2779	½	*	½	½	½	½	½	1	1	1	6	2824
3	Ruslan Ponomariov	IGM	UKR	2726	1	½	*	½	½	½	1	½	0	1	5½	2788
4	Vladimir Kramnik	IGM	RUS	2799	0	½	½	*	½	½	1	½	1	1	5½	2780
5	Arkadij Naiditsch	IGM	GER	2700	½	½	½	½	*	½	½	½	1	1	5½	2791
6	Peter Leko	IGM	HUN	2730	½	½	½	½	½	*	½	½	1	1	5½	2788
7	Georg Meier	IGM	GER	2644	½	½	0	0	½	½	*	½	1	½	4	2680
8	Daniel Fridman	IGM	GER	2655	0	0	½	½	½	½	½	*	½	½	3½	2639
9	Mateusz Bartel	IGM	POL	2674	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	½	*	½	2	2498
10	Jan Gustafsson	IGM	GER	2629	0	0	0	0	0	0	½	½	½	*	1½	2441

plus that the rest needed very precise calculation! After 23...♕a1+ (23...♘b5 24.♖b3) 24.♔d2 ♘b5 25.♖b3 ♘xa3 26.♗xa7+ ♔a8 27.♔e2 I did not see how Black should continue.

23.♗f1



23...b6!!

Actually, this quiet move is the key move! This is the advantage of analysing with computers. I wonder how much time would have been needed without engines to convince ourselves or our analysing partner that this is the best move! I guess it would have taken at least a week in the old days, and a lot of heavy arguing would be involved. Something like, come on, if this is the best you can do then I am even not going to analyse with you anymore! Nowadays we see some 0.00 evaluation and think that's it! It is hard to say what is better...

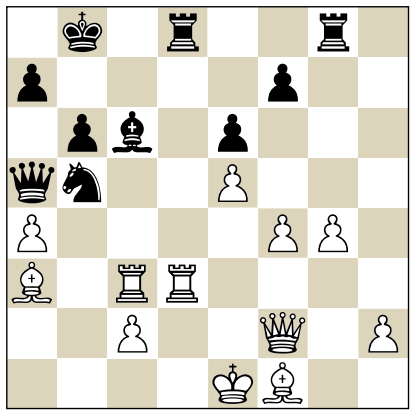
Looking back, it is easy to see the point. First of all, Black has to stop the threat of ♗e3. If Black tries 23...♔a8, after the same 24.♗b2! (threatening 25.♖cd3) 24...♗e4 25.a4! ♖d5 26.♗a3!, White is just in time to control everything, and now, with the king on a8, Black no longer has ...♖c8! However, it is not easy to understand that Black needs to exchange the g8-rook for the c3-rook!

It would be nice for Black to play 23...♗b5?, but it is simply refuted by 24.♕g2!.

24.♗b2!

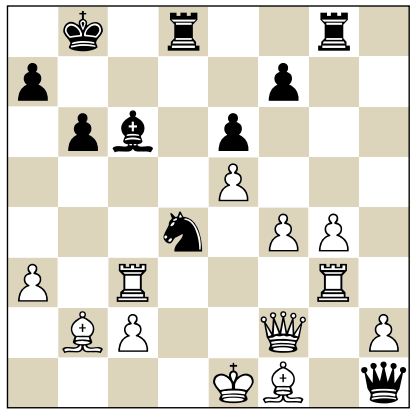
It took me some more deep calculation to work out all the details behind this move. I felt that the idea is correct, but now some fireworks are possible, which needed precise calculation.

There was also a funny line in which White tries to play a4 immediately: 24.a4 ♕e4+! (now the queen comes back – is there anybody out there who understands what is going on?) 25.♖ge3 ♕d5 26.♖ed3 ♕a5! (suddenly the problems are coming from another direction) 27.♗a3 (27.♗b2 ♕xa4 threatening 28...♗e4) 27...♘b5! (what a move!)



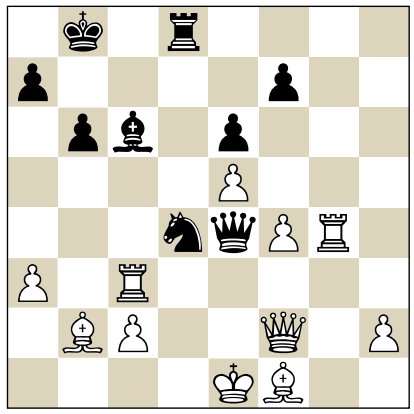
ANALYSIS DIAGRAM

28.♕d2! (cool reaction!) 28...♖xd3 29.♖xd3 ♘xa3! (the cleanest way to a draw) 30.♖xa3 ♖xg4 31.♕xa5 bxa5, and Black is fine thanks to the weaknesses on a4 and f4.



24...♗e4!

This was the first move which Caruana played after a long think. First of all, it is not an easy move to make, unless you know it. I believe that Fabiano knew that he has to play this, but could not stop himself from calculating the fantastic lines starting with 24...♖xg4. The engines do not even mention it, but humanly it is the first thing you have to check: 25.♖xg4 ♕e4+! (the question, of course, is not 25...♘f3+? 26.♖xf3 ♗xf3, because after 27.♕g1! Black has to resign), and now:



ANALYSIS DIAGRAM

26.♗e2! (only this!) 26...♗b5!. This looked really disturbing, but there is a solution!: 27.f5! ♘xc2+ 28.♖xc2 ♕xc2, and now 29.♖d4!! – a defensive move, but a winning one!

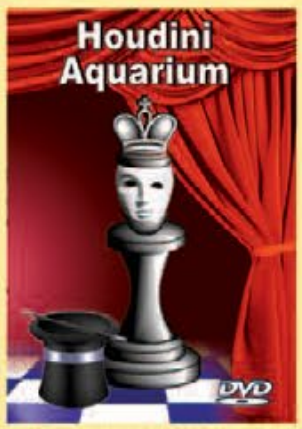
25.a4! I was very happy to find this idea! Now, with the bishop on e4, the queen does not have the chance to disturb as in the previous move! I was curious to see what Black would do!

25...♖d5!

Now ...♖gd8 is threatening.

26.♗a3 It felt I'd be in time to control everything, but now Black has...

HOUDINI 2 AQUARIUM



Houdini 2 Aquarium

Houdini 2 Aquarium is a revolutionary analysis, database and chess publishing tool, combined with the **world's strongest chess playing engine, Houdini 2** (current CCRL rating is 3347). You can also connect Houdini 2 UCI to Fritz and Chessbase.

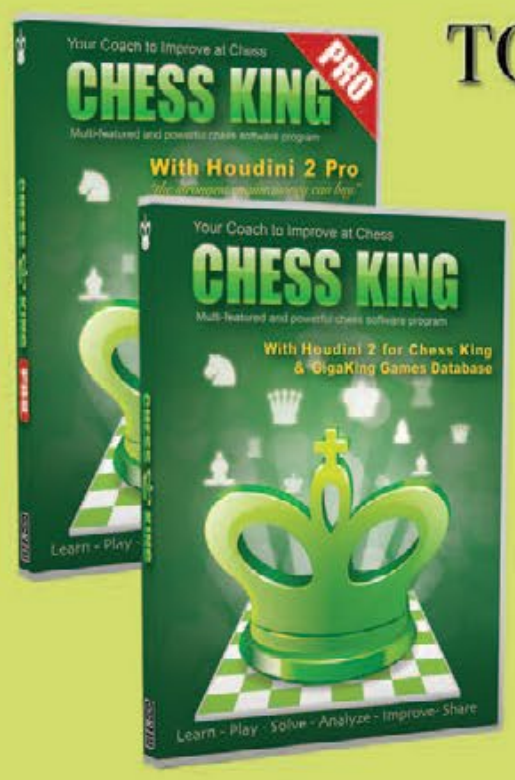
Houdini 2 Aquarium offers advanced analysis functions, game commenting, searching, powerful chess trees, playing against the computer, databases, advanced publishing features and much more. Houdini 2 Aquarium includes databases of 5.1 million games in total (before October 1, 2011) that can be updated from www.chessok.com each week with 2,000 new games for free. With a copy of Houdini 2 Aquarium you will also get a bonus of Openings Encyclopedia 2012, which includes rich theoretical material on all openings, and 12 months free access at ChessOK Playing Zone.

Houdini Aquarium 2 (supports up to 6 cores and 4GB of hash) **€50**
Houdini PRO Aquarium 2 (supports up to 32 cores and 32 GB of hash) **€79**
Houdini Opening Book on DVD **€24**
Chess Assistant 12, Starter Package with Houdini 2 on DVD **€79**
Chess Assistant 12, Professional Package with Houdini PRO 2 on 2 DVD's **€119**

www.ChessOK.com • Convekta Ltd. • chessok1@gmail.com • dealers www.newinchess.com

TOP SELLING CHESS KING SOFTWARE & COMPLETE CHESS TRAINING

At unbelievable prices!


Your Coach to Improve at Chess
CHESS KING
PRO
With Houdini 2 Pro
Your Coach to Improve at Chess
CHESS KING
Multi-featured and powerful chess software program
With Houdini 2 for Chess King
& GigaKing Games Database
Learn - Play - Solve - Analyze - Improve - Share

Chess King is the new **educational** PC chess program that will help you improve at chess. It contains all the best tools (top engine, giga games collection, puzzles, playing modes), and best of all it's **easy to use** and **for all levels.**

The Chess King Training disks cover all the chess education needed to become an **accomplished player**.

Scan this QR code for the best deals today!

Limited-Time Introductory Discount $50 on Chess King!

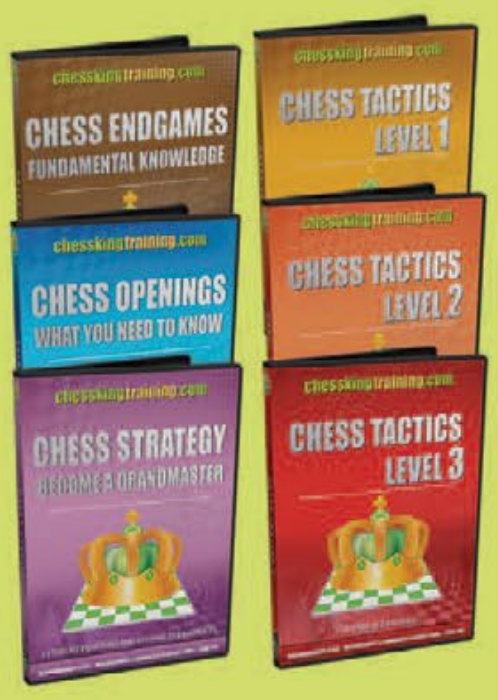
- *Chess King with Houdini 2* **€39 95** *($49)*
- *Chess King with Houdini 2 Pro* **€79 95** *($99)*
- *Any Chess King Training disk* **€19 95** *($24)*

Chess King features top chess engine **Houdini 2**
- **GigaKing** Database of over 5 million games
- Full **opening tree** to prepare for any opponent
- Thousands of **puzzles**, quest games, playing modes
- Suitable for any level of play, from beginner to master
- Chess King **Pro** includes the world's strongest engine, for up to 32 cores, providing maximum power & speed, with full **Chess960** support.

Additional "combo" discounts!

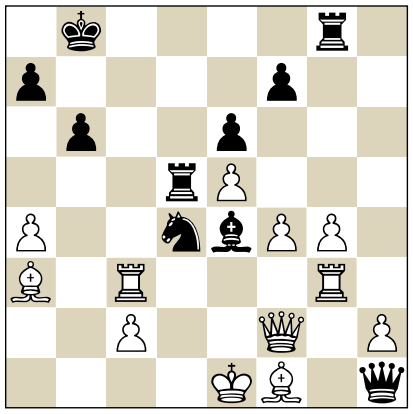
- *All 6 Chess King Training disks*
- *Chess King/Pro + 2 disks*
- *Chess King/Pro + 6 disks*

huge additional discounts!



To order or for more info:
WWW.CHESS-KING.COM
support@chess-king.com

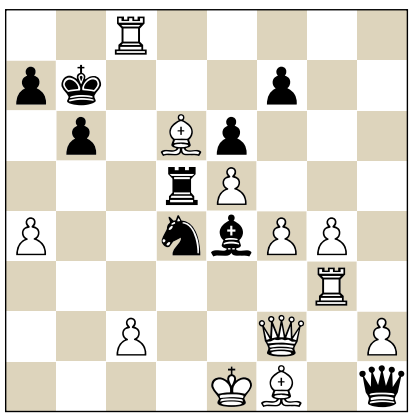
Our European dealers:
www.chessok.com
www.newinchess.com



26...♖c8!! It is hard to believe at first that by exchanging a pair of rooks Black can generate threats, but now this is exactly the case! Once the c3-rook is removed, the power of the knight on d4 doubles!

27.♗d6+ ♔b7 28.♖xc8

I was shocked that instead of immediately taking back the rook my opponent started thinking. In the meantime I continued to calculate, but after 28...♔xc8 I could not find a win, and then incredible things started happening...



28...♘f3+?

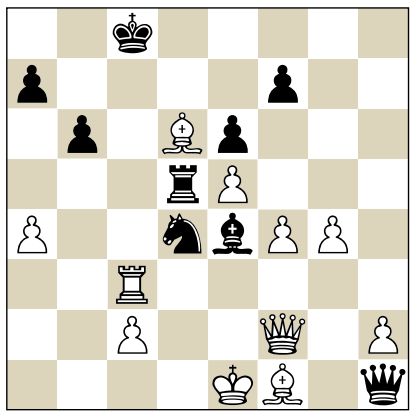
At first I did not even know what to think of this move! After realizing that I had not blundered anything, I managed to start thinking.

The natural 28...♔xc8 seems to lead to a draw, but Black escapes as by miracle, which may explain why Caruana looked for an alternative. It was difficult to understand what the best play was, and by now it was clear that he was no longer following his preparation!

28...♔xc8 29.♖c3+ (during the game I also thought 29.c4? interesting, but after spotting 29...♘c2+ 30.♔e2 ♖d4!

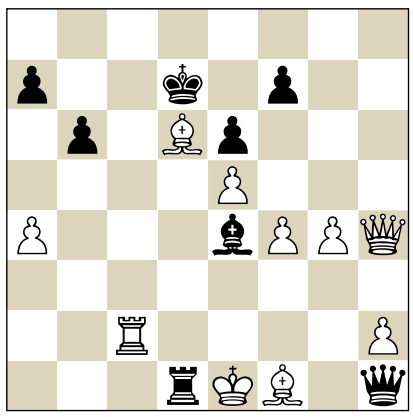
> 'I suddenly realized that the game was very far from over. In fact, I did not know where to hide my king!'

I suddenly did not see any move. In fact the engines think it is already lost for White!), and now:



ANALYSIS DIAGRAM

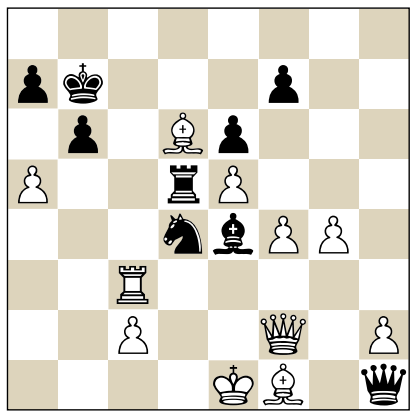
A) 29...♔d7!. Only this draws, but it is very hard to play like this: 30.♕h4 ♘xc2+! 31.♖xc2 ♖d1+! and by playing give-away-chess Black miraculously secures the draw!



ANALYSIS DIAGRAM

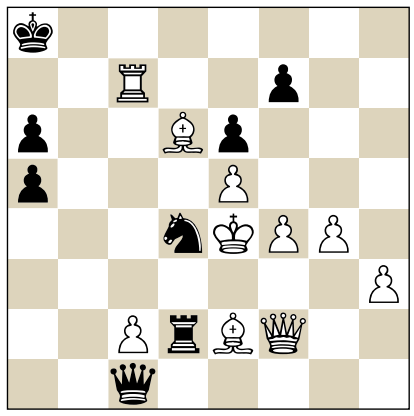
32.♔xd1 ♕xf1+ 33.♔d2 ♕g2+ 34.♔e1 ♕h1+ is a draw. We both saw it, but still we were not completely sure if we were right!

B) 29...♔b7 would be a much more human move, but this has a fantastic refutation: 30.a5!!. An amazing move. So many things seem to be threatening, but White simply ignores them all and attacks with a harmless pawn!



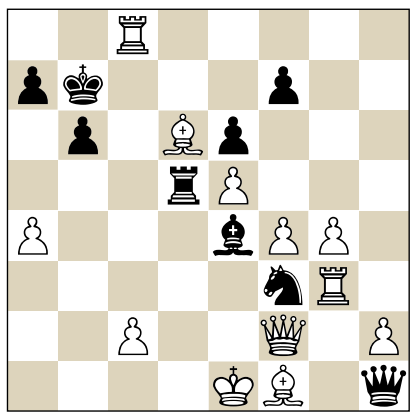
ANALYSIS DIAGRAM

And now for instance: 30...bxa5 (30...♘f3+ 31.♕xf3! ♗xf3 32.a6+ ♔a8 33.♖c8 is mate and 30...b5 31.♖c7+ ♔a8 (31...♔a6 32.♗c5!) 32.a6 is a mating net!) 31.♖c7+ ♔a8 32.h3! (a subtle nuance preventing that the g4-pawn will be hanging in the ending) 32...♘f3+ 33.♔e2 ♖d2+ 34.♔e3 a6 35.♗e2 ♕c1 36.♔xe4 ♘d4



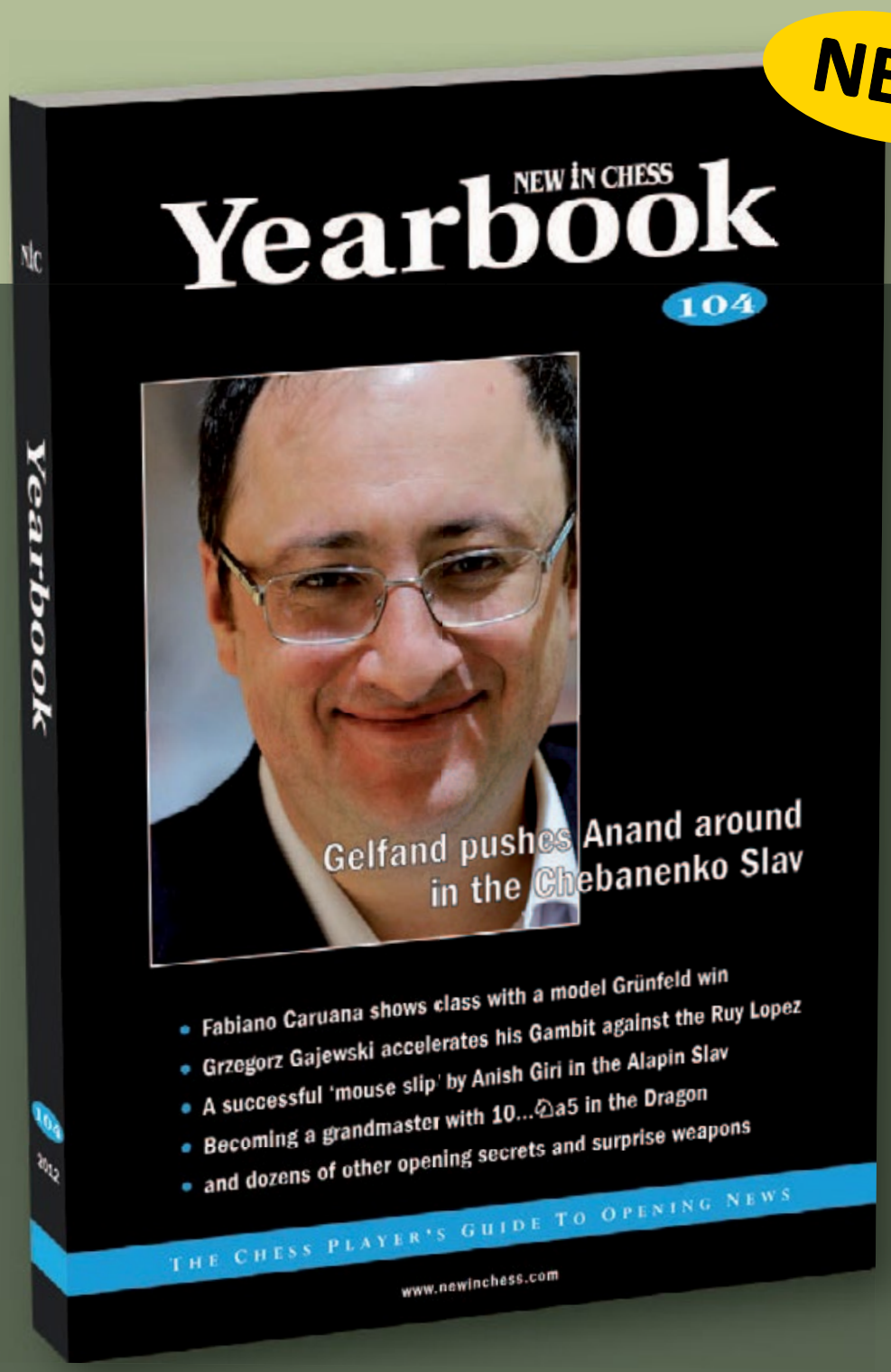
ANALYIS DIAGRAM

37.♖a7+! (a nice touch!) 37...♔xa7 38.♗c5+ ♔b8 39.♗xd4, and White wins after all the adventures!



“Terrific value for anyone interested in refurbishing and fine-tuning their opening repertoire.”

ChessToday

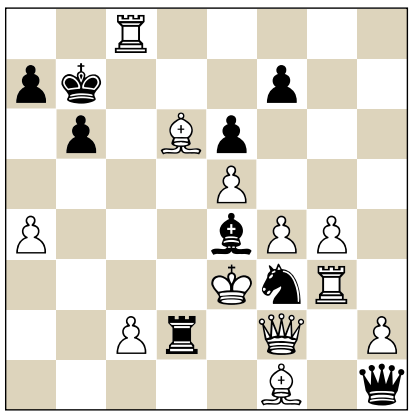

NEW
NEW IN CHESS
Yearbook
104
Gelfand pushes Anand around in the Chebanenko Slav
Fabiano Caruana shows class with a model Grünfeld win
Grzegorz Gajewski accelerates his Gambit against the Ruy Lopez
A successful ‘mouse slip’ by Anish Giri in the Alapin Slav
Becoming a grandmaster with 10...♘a5 in the Dragon
and dozens of other opening secrets and surprise weapons
THE CHESS PLAYER'S GUIDE TO OPENING NEWS
www.newinchess.com
Yearbook
104
2012

With answers to urgent questions like:

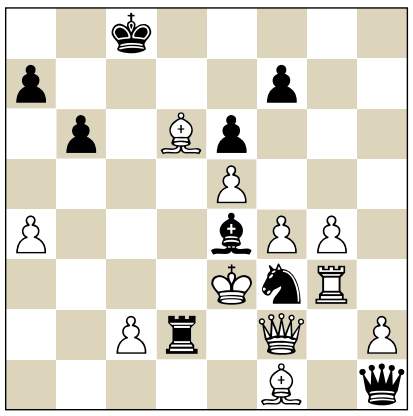
- What did Carlsen do wrong in the Nimzo-Indian – with black and with white?
- Why does new Russian Champ Dmitry Andreikin play the Benko Gambit?
- How does Ian Nepomniachtchi combine the English with the Caro-Kann and the Grünfeld Indian?
- Was Dr. Tarrasch right about his Defence?
- How good is Nakamura’s 2.f4 against the French?
- What’s best against the Classical Caro-Kann: the gentle touch or an all-out attack?
- How did Caruana create a model game in the Grünfeld Indian?
- What did Ray Robson forget in the Dragon Sicilian?
- How did Kramnik revive the Scotch Game once again?
- Why does Aronian play the Delayed Cozio only in blitz and rapid games?
- How far will you get with the Sokolsky as your speciality?
- Is Bronstein’s 8...♗d7 playable in the Rubinstein Nimzo?
- Should Black worry about the 5.♕a4 check in the Grünfeld?
- Why not sacrifice an exchange on h5 in the Dutch?
- What is Carl Carls’ major contribution to the Rubinstein-Botvinnik System?
- What does Bologan say in his new book on the Catalan?

Paperback ♦ 248 pages ♦ € 29.95 ♦ available at your local (chess)bookseller or at newinchess.com

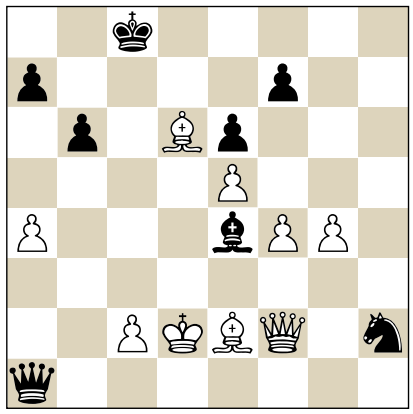
29.♔e2!! When I found this brilliant idea I was ready to go for it!
After 29.♖xf3 ♗xf3 White is forced to give perpetual check.
29...♖d2+ 30.♔e3



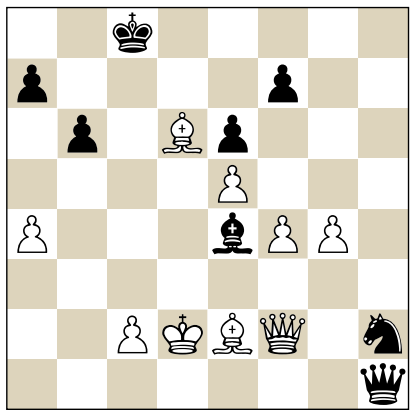
30...♔xc8 Finally Black takes the rook. 30...♖xf2 was leading to a nice mate: 31.♖b8+ ♔c6 32.♗b5+ ♔d5 33.c4 mate. It is always a pleasure to give mate with a pawn, especially to a king on d5!



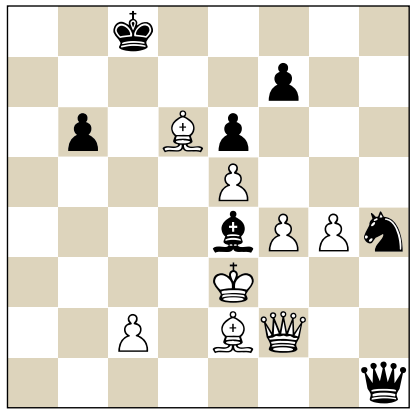
31.♖g1
!!?? I even do not know how to assess this move! It is one of the most spectacular moves I have ever made and once I had spotted it, I could not resist! Somehow I was pretty sure that it might have been this move which Fabiano had missed, and I did not even look for alternatives!
Imagine my and Caruana's surprise when after the game we were told that precisely 31.♖g1 had been the mistake! The simple and primitive 31.♗a6+ ♔d7 32.♕f1 ♕xh2 33.♖h3 would have won without any brilliancy.
31...♘xg1 Forced.
32.♔xd2 ♘f3+ 33.♔c3 ♘xh2 34.♗e2
I was calmly following my calculation.
34...♕a1+ 34...♘f3 35.♔b2! and with a safe king it is over.
35.♔d2
And basically I thought that I was winning, which is why the next move came as a shock, and with around five minutes left on the clock one should try to avoid such shockers!



35...♕h1!! I suddenly realized that the game was very far from over. In fact, I did not know where to hide my king! I calculated a couple of variations, but none of them looked convincing enough, and while the clock was ticking down, I suddenly had a blackout and played...

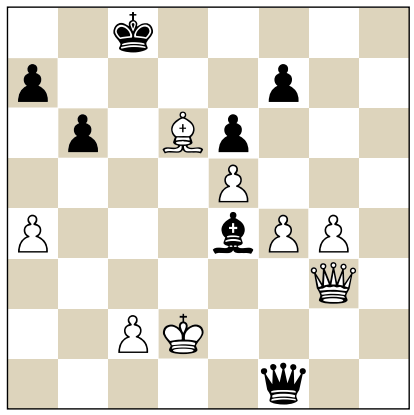


36.♕g3? I had the following choices:
– 36.f5 ♘f3+ 37.♔e3 ♘g5 38.♕f1!, giving back the pawn but exchanging the queens: 38...♕xf1 39.♗xf1 ♗xc2 40.♗e7 ♘e4 41.fxe6 fxe6, and Black has drawing chances, but must suffer for it.
– Or 36.a5 ♘f3+ 37.♔e3 ♘h4 (I think I was afraid of 37...♘e1, but 38.♗f1! is cool!) 38.axb6 axb6, and White is better but still far away from anything that is easy to convert in over-the-board play.

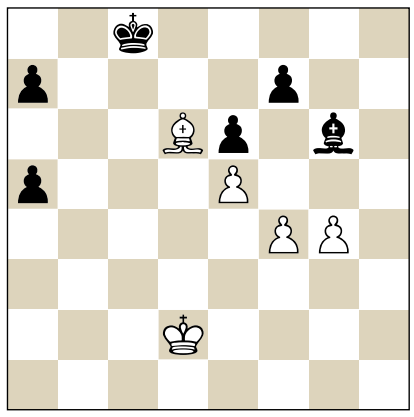


ANALYSIS DIAGRAM

White's king is only safe after 39.♕f1 ♕xf1 40.♗xf1, but now Black takes back the pawn: 40...♗xc2, and White will certainly press, but Black has every chance to hold such a position.
As so often, when I pressed my clock I immediately saw what I had done.
36...♘f1+ 37.♗xf1 ♕xf1



There is no mate with 38.♕c3 check (the king escapes via b7 and a6), so I had no choice but to agree to a draw.
38.♕e3 ♕g2+ 39.♕e2 ♕xe2+ 40.♔xe2 ♗xc2 41.a5 bxa5 42.♔d2 ♗g6



And even the arbiters were coming to the board gesturing that we had provided enough entertainment for one day and could agree to draw! ■

Reykjavik 1972

For some, the 1972 World Championship match between Bobby Fischer and Boris Spassky was part of the Cold War between East and West. Others saw it as a triumph of an individual mind bringing down the Soviet chess empire. *The Observer* called it the greatest rivalry in the history of sports, the ultimate sporting metaphor. By any name, the contest advanced the popularity of chess by leaps and bounds. Bobby Fischer became a household name not only in the United States, but all over the world. Lubos Kavalek was in Reykjavik for the Match of the Century, both as a journalist and, in the second half, as Fischer's second. Forty years on, the three-time U.S. champion relives a most memorable chess experience.

"Get ready, 'cause here I come"

Bobby Fischer would arrive at Laugardalshöll, the venue of the Match of the Century, with dramatic flair.

Bobby Fischer became the World Champion on September 1, 1972. On exactly the same day four years before I left Czechoslovakia, shortly after the Soviet tanks rolled in and extinguished the last vestiges of freedom known as the Prague Spring. There was a paradox. Bobby defeated a man who publicly stood on the side of the Czechs against the Soviet invasion.

'The Czechs also fight for us,' Spassky told the Soviet team at the 1968 Olympiad in Lugano, while their political leader and KGB informant Serov was listening. Spassky had been in trouble already in his youth, asking sensitive questions about Lenin.

Boris loved Russia, but not the Soviet Union. He was thrown into a political theatre in Reykjavik against his will. 'Personally, I like him very much', Fischer told me. 'He is a very nice person. He was under a lot of pressure. He can't really do what he

wants, he has to follow orders from Moscow.'

But Spassky did exactly the opposite: he defied the Soviet authorities and refused orders to return home after the second game. I couldn't imagine any other Soviet grandmaster doing what Boris did. Without his courage, the match would have ended right there.

The interest in the match grew long before it started. Shortly after Fischer defeated Tigran Petrosian in the Candidates Final in October 1971, I began working for the *Voice of America*, a U.S. government radio that broadcast all over the globe in several languages. The following are excerpts from an interview with Bobby Fischer on January 10, 1972.

'The Russians have been blocking me all these years,' he said. 'This is why I think there's so much interest in the match. The Russians have been putting me down for the past decade, 15 years, throwing up obstacles, cheating. Now is the moment of truth. They can't run away anymore.'

Fischer didn't distinguish between Russians and Soviets. They were all Russians to him. He didn't mince words and didn't care what the Russians thought. He charged them with cheating again and again. No diplomatic niceties for Bobby.

'I want to say what I believe, you know,' he said. 'And this is what I believe – that's what I know from my experience.'

Despite a terrible score against Spassky – never winning a game and losing three times – Fischer was pretty certain he would beat him.

'First of all,' he said, 'I have the highest rating in the world. I've always had a better international record than he has in tournaments. I know he has a plus score, and this has to be taken into account, but a lot of players have had plus scores on me, and I've beaten them very badly later. But you have to take a look at the overall record, which I think – in this case – is a lot more important than our personal score. I'm pretty confident. I don't let this plus score upset me too much.'

> 'When people start to read about hundred thousand dollar prize money, I think they are going to get interested in the game.'

Bobby revealed other things I hadn't known previously. He led a solitary life, but did he think that this type of life is absolutely necessary for a professional chess master? 'This is my personal style,' he said. 'Some people are partygoers, I'm not. I've never been interested in that kind of life.'

He was not married. Did he think that marriage would generally interfere with the career of a chess master?

'It might,' he said. 'Especially if you're on the way up. I might get married after I take care of Spassky. But right now I don't think it would be too good.'

And there was the question of how smart Bobby was. Einstein had an IQ of 160, Fischer's was apparently a notch higher. Some even put his at 180. But Bobby didn't care. 'I don't believe in these IQ tests,' he said. 'I don't think you can put somebody's total capacities in a number. Chess is a very limited field, but to say somebody's worth so many points is ridiculous. Some people are sharp in some ways; in other ways they're pretty dumb.'

How did he achieve what he has achieved?

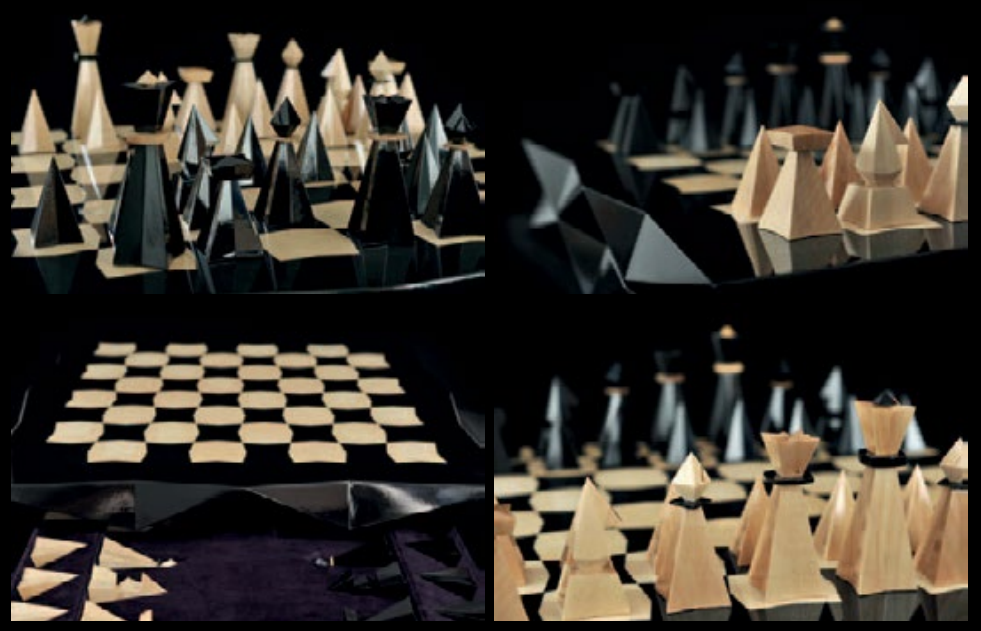
'I think it's a kind of gift, but I studied a lot, a tremendous amount of

Cubist Chess Set

Unique collector chess set inspired by the legend of Czech cubist architecture and furniture Pavel Janak.

Hand made, carved from maple wood, limited edition of 15 pieces.

author: Jaroslav Juřica
size: **510 x 510 x 85 mm** • height of king: **105 mm**
price: **1.990 EUR** • exclusive seller: **Šach Mat s.r.o.**
more informations and photos: **www.praguechess.cz/en**
contact: **pavel.matocha@gmail.com** • tel: **+420 603 861 533**



literature. And I continue studying. There is so much stuff coming out. If you want to study chess, there's no problem. There are just thousands and thousands of games being published practically every month. But you have to be selective. You can't go through it all. I just look through what I feel is important to me.'

But is it worth it to spend so much time on chess? Why would people want to become chess professionals?

'When people start to read about hundred thousand dollar prize money, I think they are going to get interested in the game. That's the way our system works. I think to a great extent people – if something doesn't have much money in it – they kind of tend to downgrade it. When I take a look at golf with all this money, I have a lot of interest in it.'

Is he greedy as some people say?

'Well, I feel that if you get really good in a sport you should be properly compensated, that's all. We have a lot talented players that come up in the States. And they see there's no money in the game and they can maybe get by, making a living, but they're not going to go anywhere. These are ambitious and intelligent people. And naturally what happens is they become engineers or something else. So there's got to be some money in it to keep these talented players involved. In Russia you have a different system and if anyone shows any talent the government takes him over, gives him all kinds of things to keep his interest up in the game.'

What specific advice would he give to an aspiring chess professional, either in the USA or generally in the world?

'I would tell them that they should study and play as much as they can. And they shouldn't get discouraged by any setbacks. That's about it.'

We also talked about his interest in music. 'I like mainly soul groups', he said. 'What they call the Motown Sound. Stevie Wonder, The Four Tops, The Supremes, The Temptations, Marvin Gay. I also like the Beatles, Bob Dylan. I have a tremendous selection.'

Bobby Fischer, Lubos Kavalek and Florencio Campomanes at the 1973 Manila tournament. Fischer opened the tournament with a 9-move draw with Philippine president Ferdinand Marcos for which he received $20,000, a bit more than $2,000 per move.

What about a favourite tune?

'All kinds of tunes from the Temptations like 'Get Ready' and others. Or 'Yesteryou, Yesterme, Yesterday' from Stevie Wonder.

Any message to Spassky?

'Play the Temptations song,' Bobby said and I did.

'Get ready, 'cause here I come' filled the airwaves.

Most world championship matches begin slowly. It is the famous shadow-boxing in chess. The players check each other out, getting the feel for how the openings may flow and try to guess where the major punch may come from. Vishy Anand calls it probing.

In 1966, I reported on my first world championship match for a Prague daily. Tigran Petrosian and Spassky drew the first six games. 'These matches in 1966 and 1969 were not particularly exciting,' Fischer told me. 'The players were mainly interested in the score, in the result. They didn't care about their chess audience, they didn't want to take any chances. But I intend to give my fans around the world something to dig their teeth into.'

What happened later defied imagination. Bobby plunged into the match in Reykjavik head first. In the first game, he trapped his own bishop with good reason but followed up incorrectly and lost. And he forfeited the second game. Two wins for Spassky. What a start!

But in the next eight games Fischer scored 6½ points. By today's 12-game world championship format, Bobby would win in 10 games. In retrospect, Game 3 turned it around.

'That was the critical moment of the match there,' Bobby told me in a post-match interview.

'I decided to play despite the handicap of being forfeited in the second game. I thought the third game was a big game because I had the black pieces. Another loss would have been very serious.'

Was he still confident he could beat Spassky in the match before he went to play the third game?

'I was only thinking about the game; there was just a lot of tension,' Bobby said.

Fischer didn't want to play the game on the stage. Spassky made a big concession and agreed to play in a back room. It saved the match. The game became famous for Bobby's knight leap to the edge of the board that allowed Spassky to shatter the black pawns. A couple of months later at the Skopje Olympiad, I tried it against the top Yugoslav grandmaster Svetozar Gligoric and I failed miserably. Gligo exposed all the positional deficiencies of the knight manoeuvre. But Spassky couldn't do it, lost the game and Bobby was back in the match.

The *VOA* sent me to Reykjavik when the match was already in full swing. I arrived with my wife Irena shortly before Game 8. I had to file reports in English, Russian, Czech and Serbo-Croatian after each game and adjournment. And an additional report in Russian after the games switched from the opening to the middle game. 'Bobby likes your reports,' Brad Darrach informed me. The American army radio broadcast them again at 3 a.m. Darrach and photographer Harry Benson covered the match for *Life* magazine. Both earned Fischer's trust and spent a lot of time with him.

Some 300 journalists came to write about the match. Many of them didn't have any idea what chess was all about. They hung around grandmasters, fishing for one-liners. Some parked themselves at the Loftleidir hotel. They could not get much from Fischer and relied on quotes from Bobby's unofficial spokesman, Fred Cramer. He would do anything to get his name into papers, but he would also do anything Bobby told him to do. Mostly writing protest letters.

There were two rooms for the press and I chose the quiet one. I was often there alone with grandmaster Isaac Boleslavsky, who spent most of his time reading Russian classics. He was Petrosian's coach, an exceptional theoretician and one of the world's best opening experts. He made opening suggestions and helped with adjourned games. It was clear that Spassky hadn't brought him to read Dostoevsky.

We stayed in the Loftleidir hotel, on the fifth floor, one floor above Fischer's suite. I met Bobby in one of the hotel's table tennis rooms after Spassky took a time-out for Game 9. 'We should really learn ping-pong', he began the conversation. 'There is no reason to lose to Chinese players.'

> 'He was not Michael Phelps, but with three, four strokes Bobby could be in the middle of the pool.'

'Do you still bowl?' he asked me. 'They have nice bowling alleys at the base.' Officially, it was an air station run by the U.S. Navy near Keflavik airport, and we went there with Bobby a few times. On one of these trips we talked about working together during the match if he was interested, since I would usually be done with my reporting 90 minutes after the game.

The bowling was a joke. It started in the summer of 1971 in Denver, shortly after Bobby demolished Bent Larsen in the Candidates' semi-final. Bobby, alerted about my arrival by USCF executive director Ed Edmondson, came to see me during my simultaneous exhibition against 42 players on July 31. At some point, my audience and opponents interrupted my performance with huge applause and cheers, and I saw Fischer entering the room. We agreed to have dinner.

We talked about the plight of professional chess players. In 1968, everything seemed to click for me. I won the strongest Czechoslovakian championship in history, finished first in Amsterdam ahead of David Bronstein and was nominated to play first board at the Lugano Olympiad. But in the middle of the race with Vasily Smyslov in Polanica Zdroj, the Soviets invaded Czechoslovakia and chess became less important.

In Lugano, I talked to U.S. chess officials about coming to America. My father, who escaped Czechoslovakia in 1949 and worked for Radio Free

On the eve of the match Bobby Fischer said: 'I intend to give my fans around the world something to dig their teeth in.'

Europe in Munich, was a U.S. citizen. It took me two years before I got a U.S. visa. I was also offered free tuition for graduate studies of Slavic literature at George Washington University in Washington, D.C.

On the way to the United States in July 1970 I won a strong tournament in Caracas ahead of Leonid Stein, Oscar Panno, Borislav Ivkov, Pal Benko and the young Anatoly Karpov. The first prize? Fifteen hundred dollars. The going rate for a simultaneous exhibition was four, five dollars a board those days, certainly not enough to make a living. I told Bobby at the time that I might have to take a job at the VOA. Despite Bobby's great success in the Candidates', America wasn't ready for chess. Within a year, this would change.

We had a pleasant dinner in Denver. It was the first time my wife and I spent time with Bobby. At one point he asked me: 'Do you bowl?'

'I've never tried it, Bobby', I said.

'Good', he said. 'Let's go bowling!'

We laughed. I was a terrible bowler. Bobby ran up a big score on me that evening, while I was mostly missing the pins.

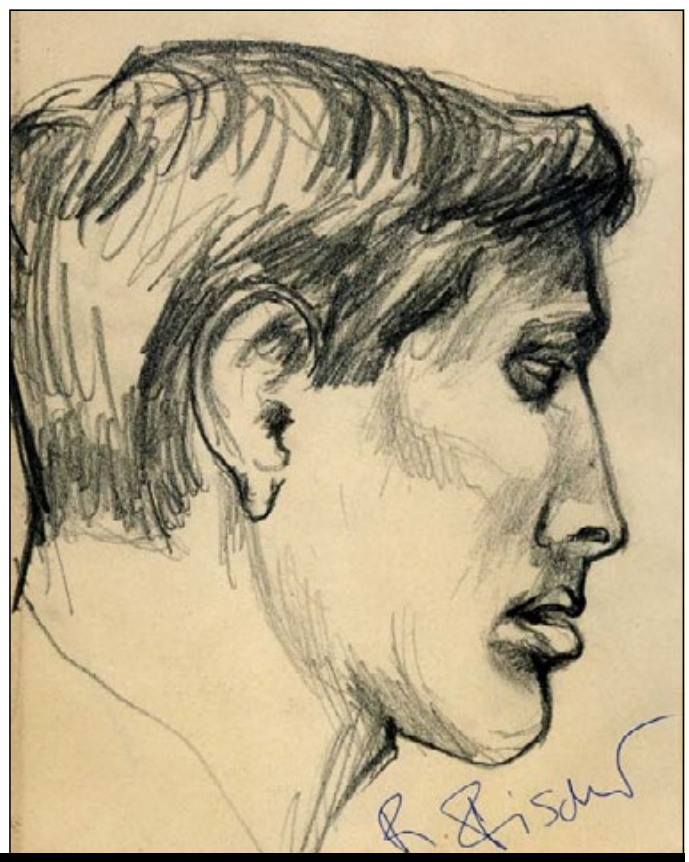
It ended with an unexpected twist: I was invited to the closing ceremony in Reykjavik as Bobby Fischer's bowling coach.

Bobby had his own ideas on how to stay fit. He considered it important to get and keep in shape physically. He paid attention to exercise and sports.

We often took walks. He walked, I ran. He was walking fast, but I never saw him running. Only once, during his visit to our house in October 1977, did I see him chase an ostrich running along the fence of the Reston Zoo. In the contest between two unlikely athletes in the middle of nowhere the bird was faster. Shortly after that I challenged Bobby to score on me in soccer. He had a powerful kick, but he always kicked the ball straight, always at me.

Bobby was grinning when he beat me in swimming in Reykjavik's outdoor pools. He had a big arm span. He was not Michael Phelps, but with three, four strokes he could be in the middle of the pool. I didn't have a chance.

In the meantime, mysterious rumours began to circulate in Reykjavik. The famous Miguel Najdorf showed up in Reykjavik after Game 8. Spassky's two blunders prompted him to say: 'I am sure Bobby is hypnotizing Spassky. I just don't know how he does it.'



'He was very pleasant. The next day in the hotel he even signed his portrait drawn by a young German artist.'

Other accusations surfaced later. Was Bobby using computers during the games? It would be relevant today, but in 1972? 'This is silly,' Bobby told me after the match. 'The computers are not far advanced. They can't help the chess players yet, in the United States or Russia, as far as I know.' Was he using electronic and chemical substances to influence Spassky's play, as Yefim Geller implied? Bobby dismissed it all as ridiculous.

Game 10 was pure, beautiful chess. Fischer's spectacular win in the Ruy Lopez Breyer was his best performance in the match. He increased his lead to three points. Spassky observed that Bobby began the marathon match with a sprint and after 10 games he was gasping for air. There were still 14 games left.

The next game brought back memories of my first game against Fischer from the 1967 Sousse Interzonal, which he famously left after he was in the lead. He allowed his opposition only three draws, winning seven games.

We played the Poisoned Pawn variation of the Sicilian Najdorf to which, faced by Fischer's novelty, I added a poisoned knight. It started a new trend and the knight has been sacrificed in many different ways ever since. Bobby grabbed the horse with gusto, but made one single slip and had to find a difficult escape from the slippery slope to make a draw.

'You added a colossal brick to the opening theory', Larsen commented on the game.

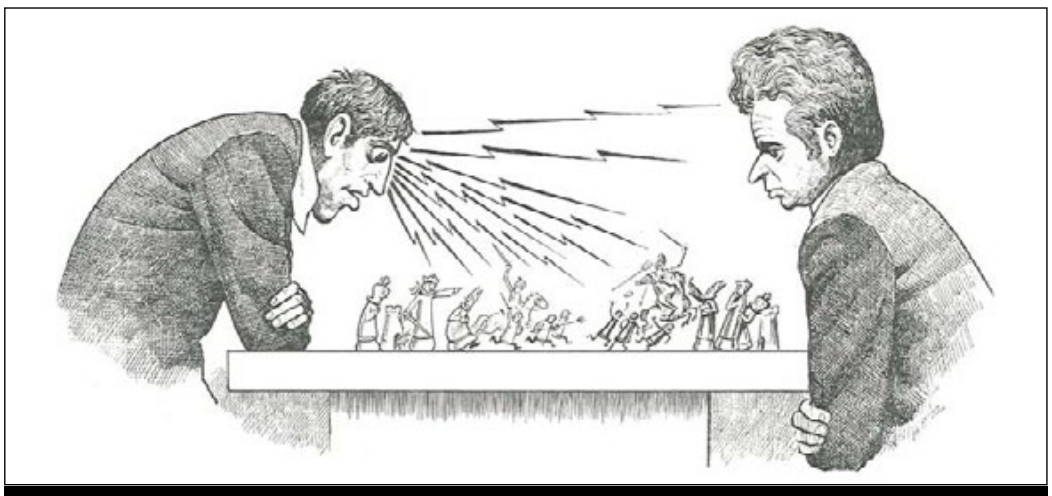
But I also saw two different sides of Fischer. During the game Bobby requested more lights and eventually we moved to a different table, closer to the window. It felt like we were playing in a TV studio, but it was not enough for him. Two more lamps were brought in, and it was like playing chess on the beach in the midday sun.

I ran into Bobby on the evening after our game ended. He needed no extra lamps to illuminate his hindsight; by the dim rays of a Tunisian street light, using his pocket set, he showed me that he had missed a bishop check that would have won the game. He was very pleasant. The next day in the hotel he even signed his portrait drawn by a young German artist.

The Poisoned Pawn variation was Bobby's main defence against Spassky's king pawn opening. After he almost won Game 9, Bobby had no reason to avoid it in Game 11, but he was in for a surprise. Boris didn't sacrifice the knight. Instead he chased it back to the stable. The retreating move had a devastating impact on Bobby. His position fell apart in a few moves and his lead was back to two points.

In Game 12 Bobby was under slight pressure, but it fizzled out to a draw. It was a quiet intermezzo to the most dramatic game of the match.

Game 13 puzzled many players even after it was finished. It was an epic battle and, according to Mikhail Botvinnik, the patriarch of Soviet chess, Fischer's greatest achievement in the match. 'Nothing like this had previously happened in chess,' Botvinnik said. His former world championship challenger, David Bronstein, played the game over many times and it was an enigma to him. 'Like a mysterious sphinx, it still teases my imagination,' he said.



'I am sure Bobby is hypnotizing Spassky,' said Miguel Najdorf, 'I just don't know how he does it.'

It was during this game that I started working with Bobby on the adjournment games after he sent his official second, Bill Lombardy, away from his suite. Bobby and Bill were a great pair, but during that night they turned into two strong personalities with two different opinions. The tension was resolved by Lombardy's sneeze. 'I don't want to get your cold, Bill,' Bobby said and added he wanted to work with me. Bill left quietly.

From that moment on, I analysed just with Bobby till the end of the match. Although we had never worked together before, I had Bobby's trust. Earlier in the year I had finished first at the U.S. championship, becoming the second highest-rated player in the country after him. As long as he won the world crown it didn't matter who helped him. It was his choice.

The game had an unlucky number and it had all the drama of a swing game. With a win, Spassky would shrink Bobby's lead to a single point. Although Bobby had the edge, the adjourned position was a minefield, requiring utmost care. One line emerged as the most practical in our analysis. The play was straightforward, but there were a few roundabouts. We reached the position with Bobby's rook arrested on g8 by White's pawn and bishop. Spassky's rook had to cope with Fischer's five pawns, but it seemed that Boris would be able to do it. The black king could be cut off from crossing the d-file. Did we hit a snag?

'Bobby...' I began. He got the whiff of what I was about to say and intercepted me: 'Don't worry,' he said confidently, 'I just push the h-pawn and get in with the king. Anyway, we are too far.' We had already strayed some 20 moves away from the adjourned position and there were many branches and trees of variations we had not covered. So we looked back and checked as much as we could. It was daylight when I went back to my room.

There was one thing I noticed. No matter how deep the analyses, Bobby committed everything to memory. No written notes.

Bobby was 21 minutes late for the adjournment. The game resumed and everything went as we had analysed. Boris imprisoned the black rook on g8 and the moment to sacrifice the h-pawn arrived. It was Bobby's only chance, but he was not moving. After some 45 minutes everybody was puzzled. What is he looking at? Is there a win? Larsen, having stopped in Iceland on the way to the U.S. Open, was entertaining the crowd in the press room, commenting on the adjournment. He was in danger of missing his flight to New York.

Bobby was still sitting at the board. He had realized that he was going nowhere. The long think somehow affected Spassky's concentration. Shortly after Bobby sacrificed the pawn, Boris made a few forced moves and blundered. The game went Fischer's way. He turned Game 13 into a lucky number and was up three points in the match. And Larsen made it to Keflavik airport on time.

Bobby was happy about the win. 'What's the idea of chess?' he laughed. 'It's winning, isn't it.' The loss was devastating for Spassky and instead of playing the next game, he took a time-out. Fischer didn't mind, although before the match he had a different idea.

'Taking time-outs has been misused,' he said. 'The Russians did it during their matches. When they decided to get a little rest, almost always after they lost a game, they claimed to be sick. I think one should play, unless you are so sick you can't physically make it. It's part of chess to be in good physical condition. If you are not, you can only complain to yourself. I don't believe in time-outs every time the weather slightly changes.'

Around this time during the match, John Lennon and Yoko Ono sent Bobby a chess set. Yoko had painted the black pieces white. 'Strange', Bobby said. 'Why would she do that?' Would two white armies fight each other? Could peace be the idea? Bobby was in a good mood and the extra day came in handy. He suggested we go bowling.

Bobby insisted on driving his car. I didn't know he could drive. 'It's easy', he said. 'It's automatic.' The streets of Reykjavik were deserted after midnight. Bobby started the car. It jerked a couple of times and moved forward. We were on the way. Barely.

The road to Keflavik was the only good road I saw in Iceland. It connected the city and the airport with a fifty kilometre strip of asphalt. Going elsewhere, you hit dirt roads as soon as you left the city. It took us nearly two hours to drive the 50 kilometres to the bowling alley at the U.S. Naval Base.

Game 13 sapped the energy of both players and mutual errors crept in. No matter what they did, they drew game after game. Bobby Fischer drew seven games in a row! It was almost as unbelievable as his 6-0 victories against Mark Taimanov and Bent Larsen in the Candidates'.

'It looks like you are already defending the world title,' I teased him.

'Well, I have a nice lead,' he said. 'It is really Spassky's responsibility to try to win games. All these draws are in my favour.' Exhausted, he was inching towards overall victory.

There were some memorable moments during the adjournments.

In Game 17 Bobby gave up an exchange, but was able to build a fortress. Spassky's only chance to play for a win was to give back the exchange and go to a rook endgame. 'The only way to find out is to allow it,' Bobby said after we began our analysis.

His fingers moved across the chessboard quickly and the clumsy rooks began to fly. At one point I thought the black rook should go behind the white pawns. 'No,' he said without hesitation, 'the rook has to hit them from the side. I know that.' Some players calculate endgames, others go by instinct. Bobby knew what to do.

The Soviets thought highly of Fischer's endgame play. When he was a teenager, they compared him to young Smyslov. What about Rubinstein or Capablanca?

Bobby was aware of these comparisons. In Pasadena in 1978 he showed me a book published in Yugoslavia: *The best endgames of Capablanca and Fischer selected by Nikolai Minev*. 'I play it better,' he said and began to show me one endgame after another.

Bobby was obsessed with winning and was not happy until he had exhausted all possibilities. This became clear when we analysed the adjourned position of Game 18. We soon realized that every winning attempt was doomed. The chances always tilted towards Spassky, but was Boris winning? Bobby's eyes lit up when I suggested a queen manoeuvre, forcing Spassky to repeat moves. 'Great! We have a draw. Let's go for the win again,' and we spent four more hours trying to find something that wasn't there. For a single victory, Bobby could work himself to exhaustion.

> 'I would consider playing Spassky a return match, if he is willing, if his government lets him.'

Game 21 began as a Sicilian, but soon resembled Black's favourable position from the Scotch game. Spassky sacrificed an exchange, but Bobby's rook was able to hold White's passed pawns.

The adjournment analyses confirmed that it was won for Bobby in all variations. Boris's weak sealed move sealed his fate immediately. He resigned by phone. Bobby had achieved his life dream.

'Do you know how Bobby celebrates his victory?' I asked Darrach, but he shook his head.

'He plays chess!'

Bobby Fischer sat in his Loftleidir suite in front of the chess board. Holding the July 1972 issue of *Chess Life and Review* magazine in one hand, the new World Champion was playing over my win against Sammy Reshevsky from the U.S. championship.

'Let's celebrate, Bobby,' I told him. 'Don't waste time on this game.'

'It's a nice game,' he insisted and continued. Occasionally, people would stop by and congratulate him. He grinned but went on with the moves. When he finished the game, he looked at my game against Larry Kaufman. Darrach thought that it was his way of showing appreciation for my work during the match. A mere 'thanks' would have sufficed, but Bobby seldom used that word. Instead, he promised me the first exclusive interview.

The next morning I met Darrach and Benson in front of Fischer's house. 'Bobby wants you to go first,' Darrach said. Bobby was curious about the tape recorder mechanics. I shouldn't have mentioned that one can erase everything by taping over. Bobby was now more interested in recording his answers, replaying them and erasing them. Eventually he settled down and the interview resumed.

Are you satisfied with the result, with the quality of the games?

'I am pretty happy, Lubos, with the score,' Bobby said. 'I mean, I forfeited one game, so it's really 12½-

7½ in games we actually played. You have to remember that there was lot of tension associated with this match. Under the circumstances, I think, I did a pretty good job.'

What do you think about Spassky's play?

'I wouldn't say he played his best. I would say he played pretty much what I expected, judging by his performances before the match. He seems to be in a slump in the last couple of years, and I wasn't expecting a dramatic turnabout.'

What does the world title mean to you?

'I think, it's a very important victory over the Russians, you know. They have been using this as a propaganda thing for many years, this world title. Now it's taken away from them; they are not going to be happy. It gives them something to think about. But for me personally, it opens up opportunities to play more chess, the kind of chess I want to play.'

What will change in your life?

'Well, a lot of money. There seems to be an awful lot of money coming my way. That's basically about it!'

What kind of future plans do you have?

'I think, if the money is there, if there is a nice offer, I would consider playing Spassky a return match, if he is willing, if his government lets him.'

Even next year?

'Possibly next year, I would say certainly within two years.'

We were interrupted in the middle of the interview. A man from the U.S. Embassy brought a telegram from president Nixon. I thought Bobby should read it on tape and he agreed.

'Let's see...', he began, but his voice betrayed him. He was obviously touched. He collected himself and began to read.

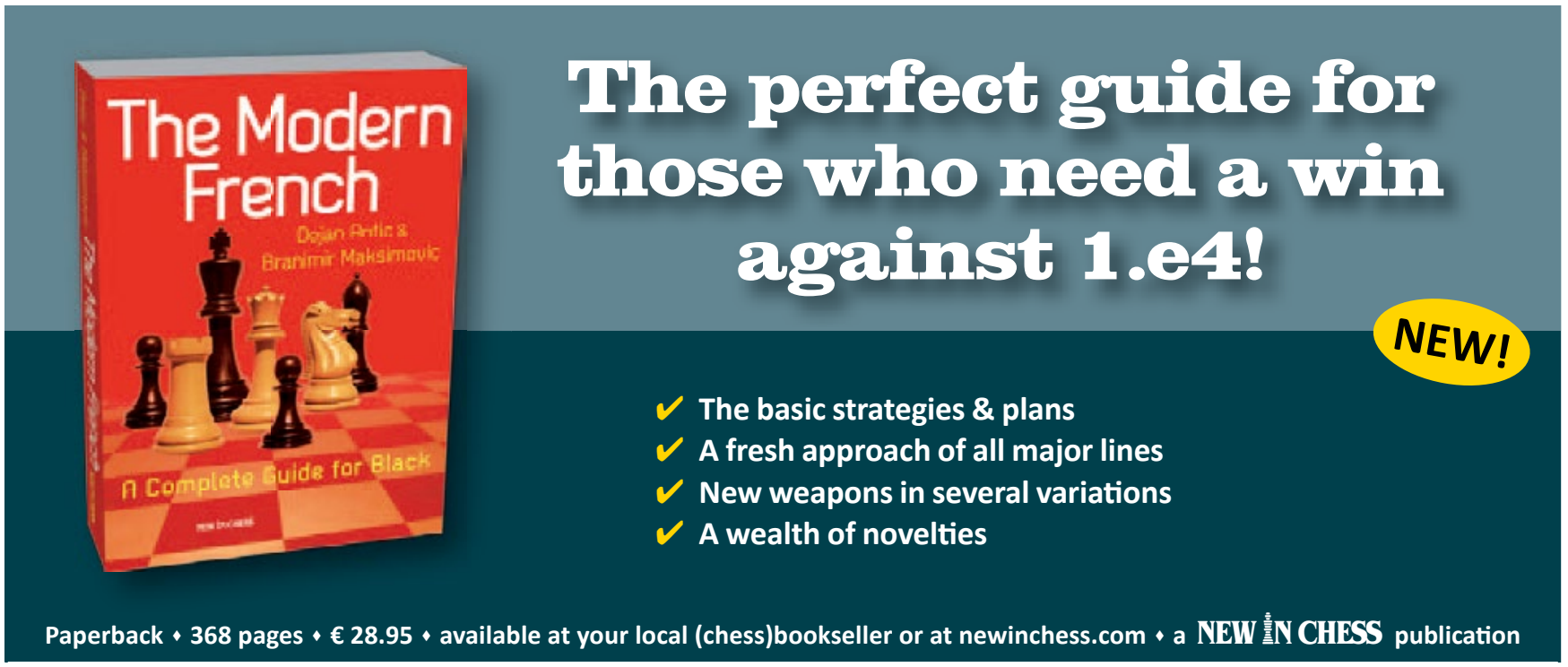
Dear Bobby,
Your convincing victory at Reykjavik is eloquent witness to your complete mastery of the world's most difficult and challenging game. The Championship you have won is a great personal triumph for you and I am pleased to join countless of your fellow-citizens in extending my heartiest congratulations and best wishes to you.
Sincerely yours, Richard Nixon

'It's a very nice telegram and I appreciate it very much,' Bobby said afterwards. At that moment, he was still a proud American. The *VOA* estimated that some 250 million listeners tuned into the interview. I presented the tape of the telegram to the World Chess Hall of Fame, now located in St. Louis.

Sometimes people ask me how much Fischer paid me and are surprised when I don't mention dollars. The match in Reykjavik was not about money. We knew that Fischer's victory would change the chess world and improve the lives of many players.

The Coca-Cola company offered $100,000 to the U.S. chess Olympiad team on condition that Fischer take part. Bobby would get $50,000 and the other players $10,000 each. The last night before my departure from Reykjavik I told Bobby that I could either play at the Olympiad in Skopje or in the tournament in San Antonio, but not in both. 'Go to Skopje,' he said. 'I'll be there.' I could not believe what I heard. In the end he didn't come and I understood: he had just won the most gruelling match of his life.

I definitely benefitted from working with Bobby. Within a year after the Reykjavik match, I was rated among the top-10 players in the world. I had seen a real chess professional at work in Reykjavik. It was an inspiration. I watched Bobby string moves together with lightness, his mind running full speed, no pause, again and again going back and forth, checking everything. I saw the best chess could offer. It was an incredible experience, and a privilege. ■


The Modern French
Dejan Antic & Branimir Maksimovic
A Complete Guide for Black
The perfect guide for those who need a win against 1.e4!
NEW!
✔ The basic strategies & plans
✔ A fresh approach of all major lines
✔ New weapons in several variations
✔ A wealth of novelties
Paperback • 368 pages • € 28.95 • available at your local (chess)bookseller or at newinchess.com • a NEW IN CHESS publication

Charles Hertan

Forcing Moves

Enter the Dragon

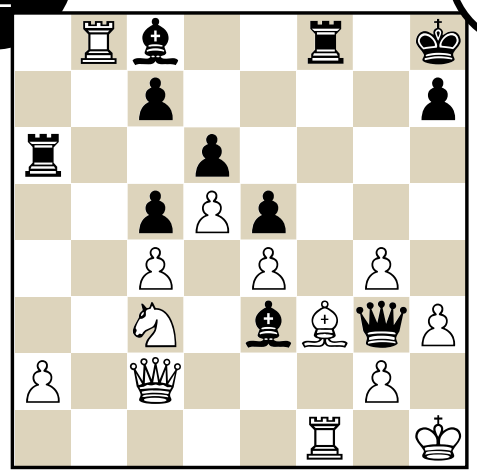
China's emergence as a formidable chess power is a singular story. State sponsorship and enhanced social status are huge advantages, but Chinese players deserve great admiration. Western chess was virtually unknown in China until the 1970s and was even banned by Mao, in favour of traditional games Xiangqi and Go. In 1974 at Kuala Lumpur, Asian dignitaries launched the 'Big Dragon Project' to elevate eastern chess. Serious financial/organizational investment quickly bore fruit when Xie Jun's raw aggressive talent easily unseated battle-tested World Champ Chiburdanidze in 1991. China's virtual hammer-lock on the women's crown still shows no signs of loosening. The men's summit proves harder to scale, but China now boasts a boatload of super-GMs and a FIDE ranking as 6th strongest country. In 1978 IM Liu Wenzhe's defeat of Dutch GM Donner was a major sensation, but in 2012 Wang Hao's victory at Biel is already no great surprise.

For each problem, the goal is to find the quickest and clearest winning line unless otherwise noted. A 'winning line' could range from checkmate, to being a pawn up with no objective compensation for the opponent.

Level of difficulty:
1-4 stars, 1 is 'easiest' and 4 'most difficult'. The star rating refers to the difficulty of finding all the relevant variations, not just finding the right key move.

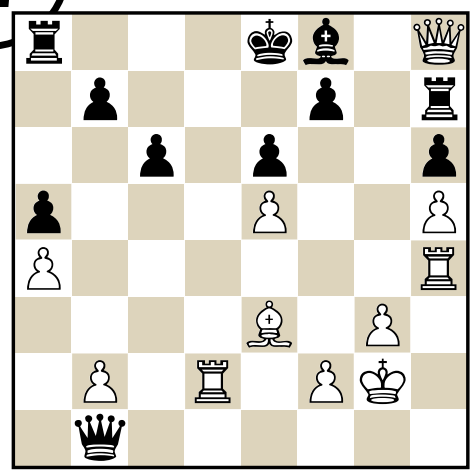
Solutions on page 85

1 ★★☆☆



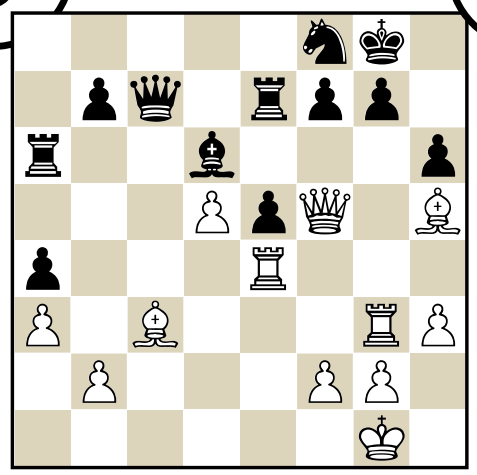
Black to move and win

2 ★½☆☆



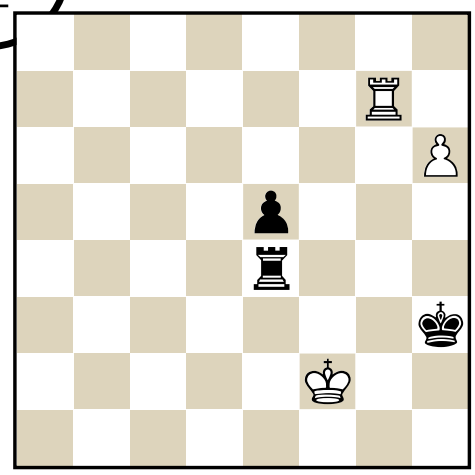
White to move and win

3 ★★½☆



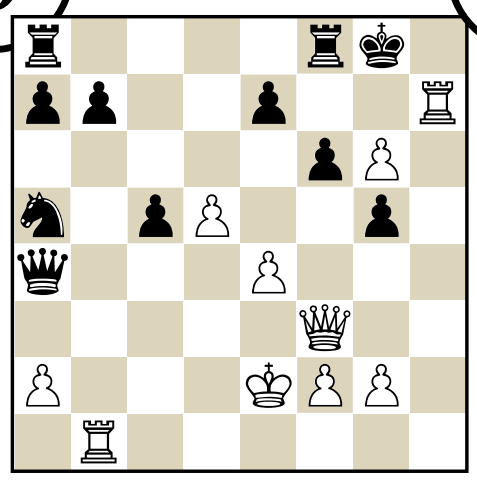
White to move and win

4 ★½☆☆



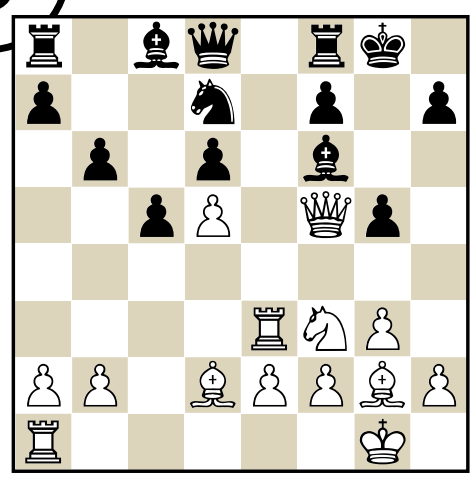
White to move and win

5 ★★½☆



White to move and win

6 ★★½☆



White to move and win

Hou Yifan wins FIDE Grand Prix

With a clear first place in the Jermuk GP, Hou Yifan secured overall victory in the 2011-12 FIDE Grand Prix, confirming her status in today's women's chess. As her three best results further included wins in Rostov and Shenzhen, the Women's World Champion became unreachable for her rivals. The final GP, in which Hou Yifan will not take part, will be played in Turkey in November. According to the GP website 'The winner of the Grand Prix agrees to play a match against the World Champion as per FIDE regulations by not later than September 2011.' Both the date and the proposed pairing sound problematic, but we assume that the runner-up in the final standings (although there is no mention of this) will challenge Hou Yifan in the autumn of next year. In that case the challenger will be either Slovenia's Anna Muzychuk or India's Koneru Humpy, depending on the outcome in Turkey.

As could be expected in chess-crazy Armenia, Hou Yifan's victory in Jermuk got considerable media coverage.

NOTES BY
Hou Yifan

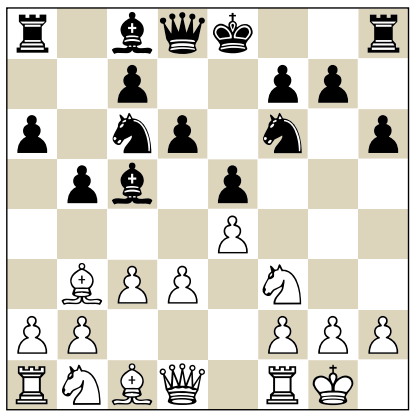
RL 12.3 – C78
Hou Yifan
Ruan Lufei
Jermuk 2012 (8)

This was my second visit to Jermuk, this time to play my last Grand Prix of the 2011/12 cycle.
Before this round, Lufei and I were half a point behind Ju Wenjun. Because of the standings I was trying to fight for a win in this game.

1.e4 e5 2.♘f3 ♘c6 3.♗b5

Lufei often plays the Berlin Defence, for instance against Nadezhda (Kosintseva) in the final round of this tournament. This time she has different plans.

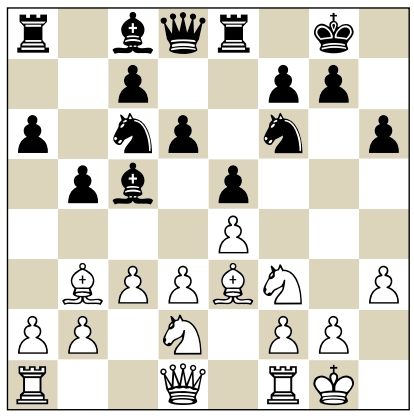
3...a6 4.♗a4 ♘f6 5.d3 b5 6.♗b3 ♗c5 7.c3 d6 8.0-0 h6



9.♗e3

Another possible plan is 9.♘bd2 0-0 10.♖e1, to transpose to a modern structure of the Italian Game. At the board I preferred to exchange her active dark-squared bishop, hoping to open the f-file.

9...0-0 10.♘bd2 ♖e8 11.h3



11...♖b8!?

An interesting waiting move. First, it prevents a4 at some point, and secondly, depending on White's plan, she

can decide to put her bishop on b7 or d7.

Actually, exchanging on e3 is also playable for Black, for instance: 11...♗xe3!? 12.fxe3 ♘a5 13.♗c2 c5 14.♕e1 ♘c6, and although White has the open f-file, it's not easy to get the bishop to the a2-g8 diagonal to work in unison with the rook.

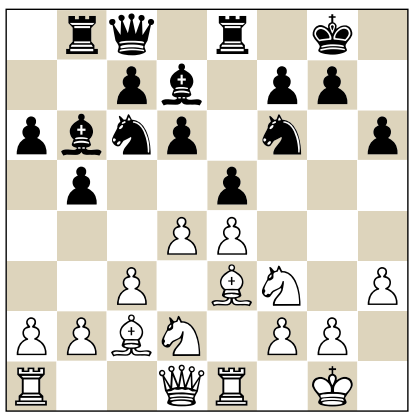
12.d4

I didn't see any better plan than to broaden my centre, despite the fact that this will lose a tempo.

12...♗b6 13.♗c2 ♗d7!?

The position after 13...♗b7 14.d5 ♘e7 15.♗xb6 cxb6 looks very similar to another familiar opening line, the only difference being that here the rook is on b8 instead of a8. However, I don't think this would make much of a difference.

14.♖e1 ♕c8



15.a3

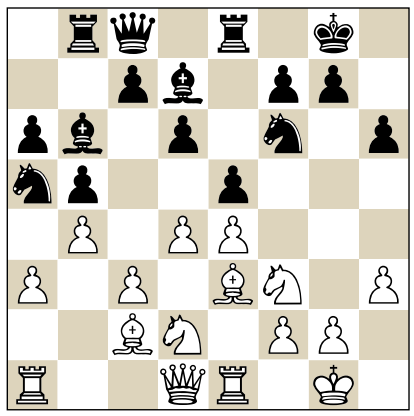
Basically, this position is easier for me to play. The main point of this move, which brings the b4-square under control, is to try and strengthen the centre.

Another possibility was 15.a4 ♕b7 16.axb5 axb5 17.dxe5 ♘xe5 18.♘xe5 dxe5 19.♕f3 ♕c6 20.♗xb6 ♕xb6, with equal play.

15...♘a5

A dubious move. Correct was 15...♕b7!? 16.♘f1 a5 (on 16...♘a5 17.♘g3 ♘c4 White goes 18.♗c1) 17.♘g3 a4, with a double-edged position: White can attack on the kingside while Black aims to strike on the queenside.

16.b4



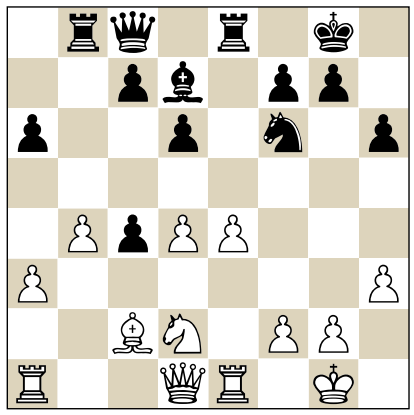
16...exd4?! Another dubious move, sticking to the wrong plan.

The wise choice here was to withdraw the knight, 16...♘c6!, and now, for example, 17.♘f1 (or 17.♗d3 ♕b7 18.♕c2 ♖bd8) 17...a5! 18.♕b1 (during the game I felt attracted by the position after 18.♘g3 exd4 19.♘xd4 ♘e5 20.♘df5, but the computer points out that I was mistaken: 20...♗xe3 21.♖xe3 g6! and Black is better!) 18...♖a8 19.♕b2 ♕b7 20.♘g3, and the real fight still has to begin.

17.♗xd4!

Obviously, Black was hoping to capture the e4-pawn, so I could not recapture with the c3-pawn: 17.cxd4?! ♘c4 18.♘xc4 bxc4, and the e3-bishop is slightly misplaced!

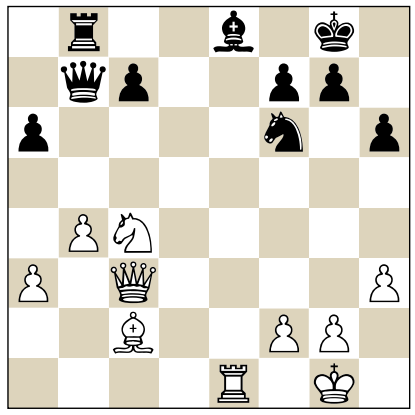
17...♗xd4 18.cxd4 ♘c4 19.♘xc4 bxc4 20.♘d2



20...♗b5 The c4-pawn was about to fall. After the active continuation 20...d5 21.exd5 ♖xe1+ 22.♕xe1 ♗b5 23.a4 ♗e8 24.♘xc4 ♘xd5 25.♖b1 White is a pawn up and there is not enough compensation for Black.

21.♕f3?!

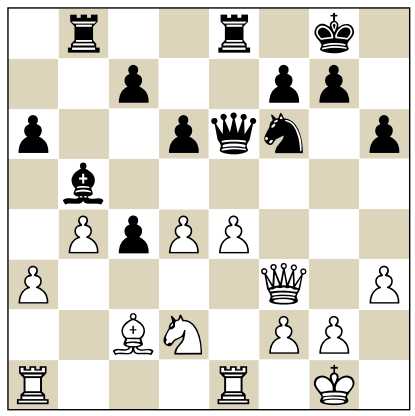
I was hesitating between this move and 21.e5! ♘d5 (less good is 21...dxe5 22.dxe5 ♘d5 23.♕f3 ♕e6 24.♕e4 g6 25.♘f3 ♖bd8 26.a4 ♗d7 27.♕xc4, and White is clearly better) 22.♕f3 ♘e7 (bad is 22...♗c6? 23.♗e4 c3 24.♘b1 c2 and here 25.♘c3! was the move that I had missed during the game!) 23.d5 dxe5 24.♖xe5 ♕b7 25.♖ae1 ♘xd5 26.♘xc4 ♘f6 27.♖xe8+ ♗xe8 28.♕c3,



ANALYSIS DIAGRAM

when White doesn't obtain a material advantage but depends on her powerful pieces and the two weak pawns on a6 and c7. Still it will not be easy to enlarge the white advantage.

21...♕e6



22.♖ab1?! Another dubious move that almost gives up the advantage.

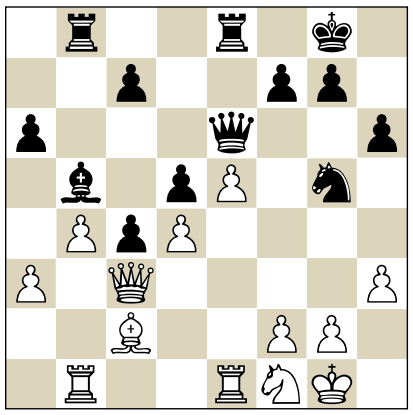
Correct was 22.♖ad1! d5 23.e5 ♘h7 24.♘f1 ♘g5 25.♕g3 ♕b6 26.♘e3 (the fact that the rook on d1 already protects the d4-pawn is the main idea of 22.♖ad1) 26...♖bd8 27.♘f5, with good attacking chances.

22.d5?! would be bad because of 22...♕e5!.

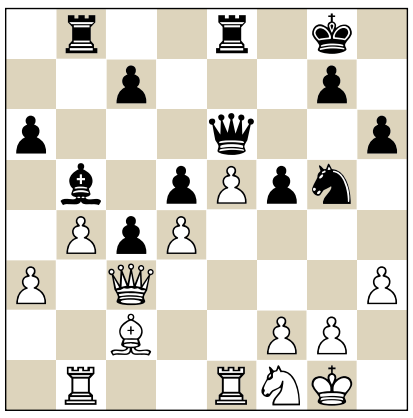
22...d5 23.e5 ♘h7 24.♘f1

My first feeling was to play 24.♗f5, but then I saw 24...♘g5!

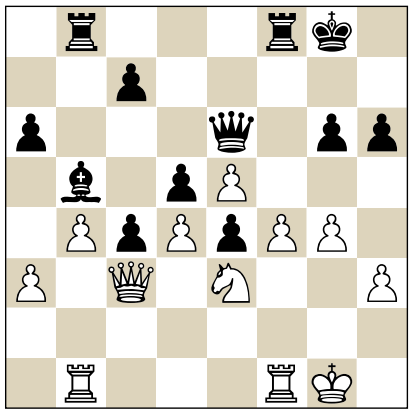
24...♘g5 25.♕c3



25...f5? This surprised me! The normal continuation was 25...♕b6 26.♘e3 ♖bd8 27.♖bd1 ♘e6! (preventing f4) 28.♘f5 ♗d7, when although White has a nice pawn structure and active pieces, it is still not easy to attack on the kingside, as I cannot push the f-pawn.



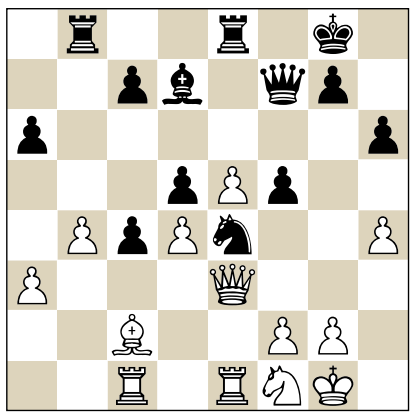
26.h4? Here I missed an easy way to get an almost winning position, and in the meantime I also gave up my whole advantage. I should have played 26.f4! ♘e4 27.♗xe4 fxe4 28.♘e3 ♖f8 29.♖f1 g6 30.g4!,



ANALYSIS DIAGRAM

with enough advantage for the win: the e3-knight is much better than the bad bishop on b5; it can stop the passed e4-pawn and support the f5 push, giving White a double passed pawn in the centre, while Black's two passed pawns are stopped by the queen and the knight.

26...♘e4 27.♕h3 ♗d7 28.♖bc1 ♕f7 29.♕e3

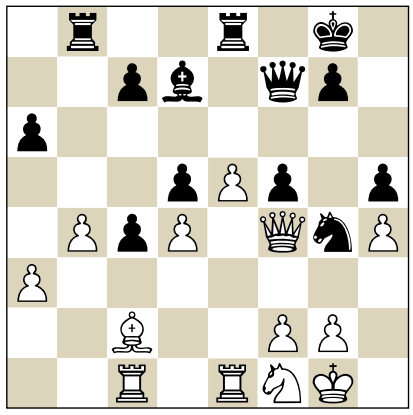


29...♘f6?! Lufei was afraid that her knight might be trapped on e4, so she wanted to withdraw it immediately. However, she had a nice breaking move: 29...a5! 30.bxa5 ♖a8! 31.f3 f4 32.♕e2 ♘d6, with unclear play.

30.♕f3 ♘g4?

She perseveres with her bad plan. Obviously, the e4-square is much more powerful for the knight than g4. For instance: 30...♘e4 31.♕f4 a5 (31...g5 looks attractive, but after 32.♕h2 Black has nothing left to develop, whereas White may exploit the weakness on the kingside in the future) 32.bxa5 c5 33.dxc5 ♘xc5 34.♘e3, when White is slightly better but there is still everything to play for for both sides.

31.♕f4 h5 Black wants to save her knight, but after this move White gains access to a series of dark squares, and my bishop is much stronger than hers, for the simple reason that almost all her pawns are on the same colour as her bishop.



32.♘g3 I hesitated between 32.♘g3 and 32.♘d2. The first option attacks the pawn immediately, the other one aims to transfer the knight to g5 via f3: 32.♘d2!? ♖e7 33.♘f3 ♖f8 34.♘g5 ♕g6 35.♘h3, and this position is very difficult to play for Black.

32...♖f8?

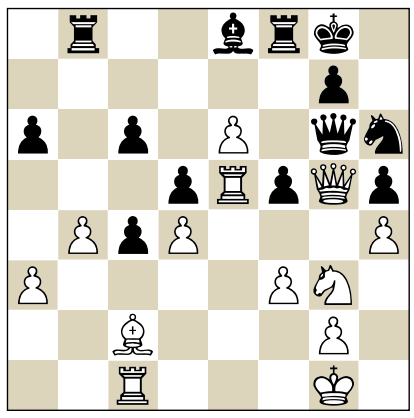
After this move it is easy for White to finish the game. She should have tried 32...♖b6! 33.♘e2 (if 33.♕g5 ♖g6!) 33...♖f8 34.g3 ♖g6 35.f3 ♘h6 36.♕d2 ♖e8 37.♘f4, although here, too, White has a clear advantage.

33.f3 ♘h6 34.♕g5

White is definitely winning now.

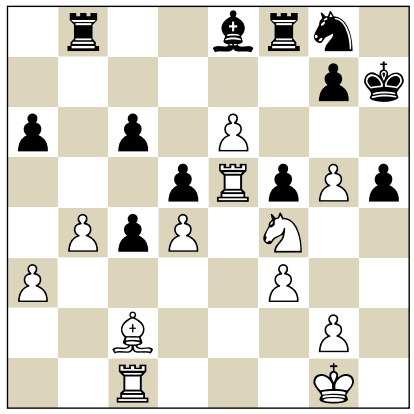
34...♗e8 Or 34...♖b6 35.♘xh5 ♖g6 36.♕d2 ♖b6 37.♘f4, and White wins.

35.e6 ♕g6 36.♖e5 c6



37.♘e2! A nice plan! Taking the f5-pawn looks attractive, but it will give Black a chance to fight back: 37.♗xf5?! ♘xf5 38.♘xf5 ♔h7.

37...♔h7?! 38.♘f4 ♕xg5 39.hxg5 ♘g8



40.e7 Black resigned.

This important win helped me to become the champion of the entire GP cycle. This is why I wanted to share this game with the readers ☺ ■

Short Stories

Symbiosis

It was a simple request, delivered with a politeness bordering on deference: would we, the players – at a time of our own convenience, of course – be so kind as to help the organizers by occasionally speaking to members of the press? As we were being paid relatively lavish sums of money and were accommodated in the venerable 5-star Ritz Hotel in the beautiful Catalan city of Barcelona for the 1989 Grandmasters' Association World Cup, it barely seemed much of an imposition – not even for the media-shy. It is not as though tournaments are generally overwhelmed by camera-crews and reporters scrambling to share those latest novelties in the Queen's Indian with an adulatory public. Quite frankly, chess could do with all the coverage it can get. Alas, there are plenty of egotists who imagine that the world owes them a living, and so it was with a sigh of dismay – although not the slightest surprise – when I heard Valery Salov immediately respond that under absolutely no circumstances would he agree to be interviewed until after the tournament was over...

Chess players have various responsibilities, not the least of which is to fight. In recent years, the Sofia Rules, or some variant thereof, in which agreed draws are banned, have been gaining in popularity among organizers. I probably didn't give this subject much thought when I first started competing several decades ago: negotiated truces were a fact of life. Indeed, although never a compulsive offender, I am nonetheless guilty of ending dozens of games pacifically and prematurely in my long career. There has been no moment of epiphany, but I have steadily arrived at the conclusion that the hardliners are basically right: the 'grandmaster draw' is a malignant tumour that threatens the long-term health of the game. It is thus fair and reasonable to legislate against it.

Where I differ with the most vocal, fundamentalist advocates of the Sofia Rules is in the extent in which they should be implemented. It is undeniable that chess has a wide drawing-margin, particularly at the higher levels. Many positions really are desperately dull – a point conveniently ignored by the polemicists (often former players themselves). Such lifeless positions benefit not a jot from being tediously terminated. I would go further and argue that wood-pushing of this sort is not only pointless but profoundly unaesthetic. In practice, what often happens in elite events is that, with a nod and a wink, the players contrive a three-fold repetition – although this requires a degree of non-verbal understanding that not everyone possesses. My favoured compromise solution therefore is to retain the agreed draw, but only after a set number of moves, say, after the time-control at move 40 – a traditional moment for reflection. The downside is that this still does not prevent players from chickening out of unbalanced endgames, or late middlegames. On the other hand, spectators are more or less guaranteed a few hours fight and the most egregious abuses – the sort where opponents show up at the venue in tennis gear, with racket in hand, à la Spassky and Andersson in the 1980s – would be all but eliminated. I say 'all but' because technically it would still be possible to agree to make a perpetual check or three-fold repetition before the game, but even that can be partly curtailed. For example, there was a provision in my recent Edmonton tournament to forbid the well-known theoretical draw. Rather like pornography, this wasn't strictly defined, but most people can recognize it when they see it (11.♘g5 ♖f8 12.♘f3 'yawn' in the Zaitsev Spanish would be an obvious example). Two accomplices hell-bent on carrying out a cowardly act can never be stopped, but the war is largely won when you create a climate where such things are severely frowned upon and the culprits have to resort to ever greater deception to evade detection.

Whereas some form of the Sofia Rules is to be broadly welcomed, a far less happy innovation (which, regrettably, is rapidly gaining in popularity) is the Bilbao scoring system which awards three points for a victory, one for a draw, and none for a defeat. The idea, one supposes, is to make players strive harder for wins – although

its incentive effect on people who are already compelled to play out their games to a finish (such as at the London Chess Classic) is minor. Furthermore, perverting the scoring system in this way contains at least one glaringly obvious flaw: if Bobby was unhappy with the commies 'cheating' at Curaçao 1962 by merely drawing with one another to conserve their energy, how much more would he have been upset under a Bilbao system, had they agreed to trade victories? I would go so far as to say that asymmetric scoring is completely untenable in double (and especially quadruple) round events and that it is only a matter of time before we have a major scandal. That the system works reasonably well in football, ignores the fact that it is far easier to rig results between individuals than obtain the crooked complicity of entire teams.

My general impression though, is that the majority of leading players are quietly opposed to the Bilbao system less on the grounds of its openness to skullduggery (although it is a genuine concern) than that they believe a draw is a perfectly legitimate and often hard-earned result. I suspect the only reason the system is tolerated is that it usually does not have much bearing on the final standings. Occasionally, though, it skews the final crosstable – such as in Biel recently when Wang Hao pipped Magnus Carlsen, despite finishing behind the Norwegian under the traditional scoring method. I have been a fan of the brilliant young Chinaman for a number of years already. He thoroughly deserved the acclamation of the public for his bold, enterprising play. But was it really fitting and proper for him to take the top honour? I will leave that for others to decide...

Digressing slightly, if one genuinely desires more decisive results, it would be better to change the rules, not the scoring. Why, when one player is hogtied and completely paralysed, should he escape defeat? Let's take a simple example – White: ♔g6, ♙h5, Black: ♔h8. White has clearly increased his initial advantage but the position is completely drawn. Yet without the

> 'The "grandmaster draw" is a malignant tumour that threatens the long-term health of the game.'

stalemate defence, White wins trivially by advancing his pawn. Add an extra 'wrong' white bishop on d3 and the absurdity of the current regulation is greater still. Indeed, this illogical rule cannot even be justified on historical grounds: during the first several centuries of our game, victory went to the stalemater. Perhaps it is time for FIDE to radically revert to an earlier tradition?

If the Bilbao system is a well-intentioned but flawed attempt by organizers to make chess more exciting, a far greater curse, born of the same desire, is the erratic and inconsistent imposition of tiebreaks. Few subjects have the capacity to rile players more than this. In 2007, my annus horribilis, when I was plagued by a variety of physical ailments, I played a small rapid tournament in Banyoles, in which I finished joint first with Viktor Moskalenko. The organizers, either out of thoughtlessness or caprice, had decided to randomly select the tiebreak after the final round. The winning lottery ticket said 'progressive scores', which meant that Viktor collected a prize worth precisely double mine, for a performance not in the least bit superior – having played weaker opponents in several rounds (our individual game was drawn). The organizers were very nice people and had in no way acted out of malice: it simply had never occurred to them that what they had done was neither necessary nor equitable.

Certain events, with important titles at stake, clearly do require an absolute winner. There is no ideal solution, but a playoff, of some description, is best. I was not very happy losing to Michael Adams, at rapid chess, at breakfast time, during last year's British Championship, but it was fair and I had no reason to complain. Without a doubt, it is far less galling than enduring the injustice of the Sonneborn-Berger system, or some other imbecility, just because some patzer has hung a piece, in a winning position, way down on board 150...

As a rule, given that chess is an impecunious profession outside of a small elite, it is inadvisable to decide large sums on tie-breaks. In Gibraltar, I won an additional 8,000 pounds from Hou Yifan, in a few minutes – which would almost have made me feel guilty had I not also suffered the slings and arrows of outrageous fortune on previous occasions.

In the symbiotic relationship between players and organizers, both sides should give greater thought to the needs of the other. The former must abandon the slovenly and unprofessional practices of the past, but organizers too must understand that not every innovation is a blessing. Above all, being fair is ultimately far more important than having a winner at any cost. ■

PHOTO NEW IN CHESS

Lev Polugaevsky worked on chess with passion. His fate was unusual for a great chess player, although he undoubtedly was one. A modest and guileless provincial man, Lev spent a long time in the shadow of his contemporaries – Kortchnoi, Tal, and Spassky. While they were already famous grandmasters he was only creeping towards the title at the cost of enormous effort.

It's always dangerous to compare the scale of natural talent, but in terms of the vividness of his talent he was undoubtedly inferior to Spassky and Tal. The ferocious fighting spirit and uncompromising attitude of Kortchnoi were also things that Lev could only admire. What for his colleagues came simply and easily took Polugaevsky an incredible amount of work, though whenever he reached a new mark he never dropped back. In 1967 sharing first place in the USSR Championship was seen as a great achievement for Polugaevsky, but similar success in the next two Championships no longer amazed anybody.

For many years Polugaevsky's sporting qualities were also far from those of a champion. An inborn lack of self-confidence and extreme sensitivity prevented Lev from displaying his full mastery at the decisive moments. As a result, it took him a long time to cross the Interzonal barrier. He first managed that in 1973 when he was almost forty. After winning a decisive game against Lajos Portisch (you can find it in the deciding games chapter), he qualified for a match-tournament play-off. He overcame that obstacle as well and then twice more qualified for the Candidates. What came naturally to the great fighters was something he managed to acquire with the help of merciless self-analysis and unrelenting work on himself. His path to the top ended up being much longer and more painful, but that made his experience all the more precious. As for pure chess, Polugaevsky has had few rivals in the history of chess in terms of the depth of his research and the detail and accuracy of his analysis. In that regard his game against Tal is very revealing.

TD 2.9 – D41
Lev Polugaevsky
Mikhail Tal
Soviet Championship 1969 (2)

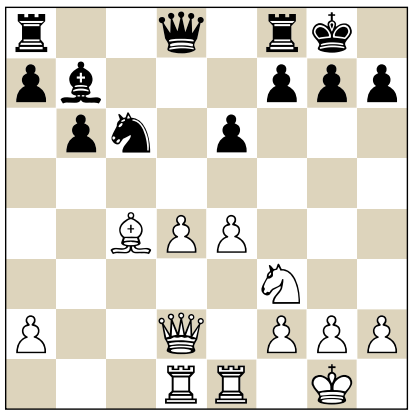
1.c4 ♘f6 2.♘c3 e6 3.♘f3 d5 4.d4 c5 5.cxd5 ♘xd5 6.e4 ♘xc3 7.

At the 2010 Olympiad in Khanty-Mansiysk, just like in Calvia in 2004, the Ukrainian team coached by Vladimir Tukmakov took top honours.

BE PREPARED!

Preparation and the wish to be one step ahead of your opponent has always been an essential component of our game. In his new book *Modern Chess Preparation*, Vladimir Tukmakov describes how in the Information Age the role of the computer has grown tremendously and how players of all levels use or should use their 'Metal Friend'. He explains that the most important aim of modern preparation, both for successful professionals like Magnus Carlsen and for ambitious amateurs, is to get a playable position that you understand better than your opponent. Drawing from a wealth of experience, first as a world-class player, later as a prize-winning coach, Tukmakov has written a page-turner cramming with brilliant examples, lots of inside information and amusing anecdotes. In the following fragment from his ground-breaking book, the author pays tribute to one of the pioneers of modern opening preparation (still unaided by computer assistance!), Lev Polugaevsky.

bxc3 cxd4 8.cxd4 ♗b4+ 9.♗d2 ♗xd2+ 10.♕xd2 0-0 11.♗c4 ♘c6 12.0-0 b6 13.♖ad1 ♗b7 14.♖fe1



14...♘a5

14...♘e7 15.d5 exd5 16.exd5 ♘f5 17.♘e5! ♘d6 18.♘c6! ♗xc6 19.dxc6 ♘xc4 20.♕f4 ♘d6 21.♖xd6 with a big edge for White was seen in Petrosian-Kortchnoi, 6th match game Il Ciocco 1977;

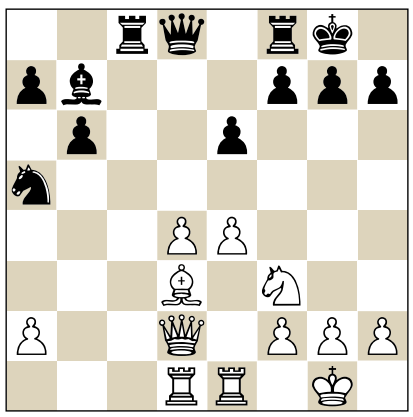
14...♖c8 15.d5 exd5 (15...♘a5 16.♗d3! exd5 17.e5 led, by a move transposition, to the game we're looking at)

BORIS DOLMATOVSKY

Who wouldn't like to see Garry Kasparov and Mikhail Tal play blitz? On the left Lev Polugaevsky, Vladimir Tukmakov and Lev Psakhis.

16.♗xd5 ♘a5?! (it was worth considering 16...♕c7 17.♕g5 h6 18.♕g4 ♘e7) 17.♕f4 ♕c7 18.♕f5 brought Spassky a win over Petrosian (Moscow 1969). That's far from a coincidence. The whole variation was analysed in detail by Spassky and Polugaevsky during their training camp in Dubna. Petrosian deviates from the main variation and Tal falls right into the trap.

15.♗d3 ♖c8



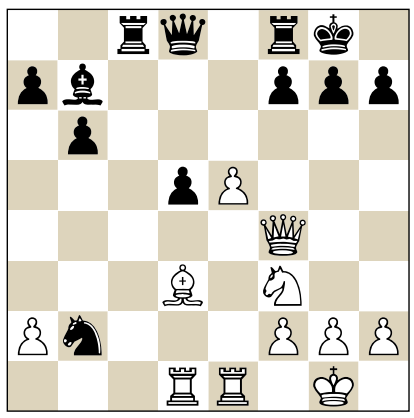
16.d5! exd5

After this game it was up to Black to look for an antidote. One of the possible attempts was 16...♕d6!? 17.dxe6 (17.♕e2 e5) 17...fxe6 (17...♕xe6 18.♘d4 ♕e5 19.♘f5 is dangerous for Black) but after 18.♕g5 ♕c5 19.♕h4 White has attacking chances.

17.e5! ♘c4

The most natural reaction. After other continuations White's initiative also gives full compensation for the sacrificed pawn. For example: 17...♕e7 18.♕f4 ♘c4 19.♘g5 g6 20.♕h4 h5 21.♗f5! ♖ce8 22.e6 or 17...h6 18.♗f5 ♖c7 19.e6.

18.♕f4 ♘b2?

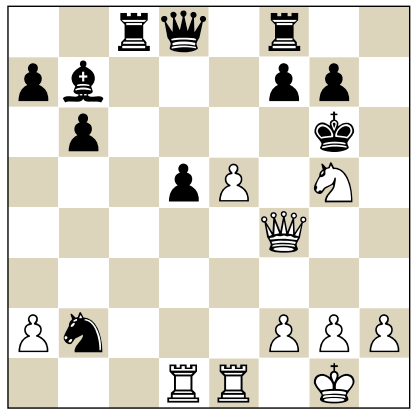


It seems as though Black has resolved all his problems, as after the natural 19.♖d2 ♘xd3 White doesn't have sufficient compensation for the pawn. However, Polugaevsky's preparation turned out to be much deeper and it was already problematic to find a satisfactory defence.

Insufficient was 18...h6 19.♕f5 g6 20.♕h3 (20.♕g4 h5 21.♕g3 is also interesting) 20...♔g7 21.e6 ♕f6! (21...fxe6? 22.♘d4, winning) because of 22.exf7 ♕xf7 23.♗xg6! ♕xg6 24.♖e7+ ♖f7 25.♖xb7 ♖xb7 26.♕xc8, with a clear white advantage. Better is 22...♖c6, but in that case as well White's chances are greater.

19.♗xh7+! ♔xh7 20.♘g5+ ♔g6

The impression is that White's attack has hit a dead-end. A piece has been sacrificed, two more are hanging and no direct threats are visible.



21.h4!!

This game is given in all the books as an example of Polugaevsky's brilliant home preparation – and that's absolutely just. An additional argument in favour of such a conclusion is the evidence of Genna Sosonko, Tal's second. It turns out they also reached this position in their analysis. They didn't miss the piece sacrifice either, but they dismissed it on general considerations: at first glance the build-up of attacking forces was just too small. However, in the position where the ex-World Champion ended his analysis Polugaevsky had just begun! The move in the game wouldn't even deserve a single exclamation mark if it wasn't a link in the chain of an idea that was flawlessly worked out in all regards.

21...♖c4

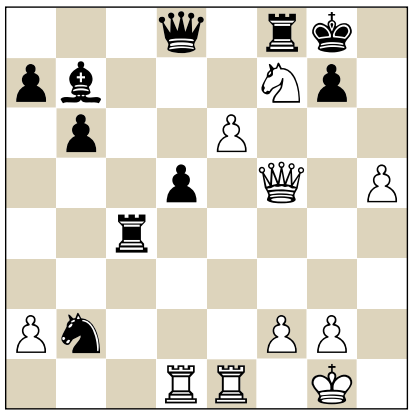
After a long think Tal chose the most logical defence. It's no surprise that it coincided with the main line of the home analysis. A good illustration of the dangers awaiting Black in other lines is given by the following variations:

A) 21...♘xd1 22.h5+ ♔h6 (22...♔xh5 23.g4+ ♔g6 24.♕f5+ ♔h6 25.♕h7+ ♔xg5 26.♕h5+ ♔f4 27.♕f5 mate) 23.♘e6+ ♔h7 24.♘xd8 ♖cxd8 25.♖xd1, winning;

B) 21...f5 22.♖d4! with the same idea of 23.h5+. Apart from that Black has to take 23.♕g3 and 23.♖e3 into account;

C) 21...♕e7 22.♖d4! ♔h6 23.♘e4+ ♔h7 24.♘f6+! gxf6 25.♕f5+ ♔h6 26.exf6 ♕xe1+ 27.♔h2 ♖g8 28.g4 and Black is helpless.

22.h5+! ♔h6 23.♘xf7+ ♔h7 24.♕f5+ ♔g8 25.e6!



Believe it or not, this position had also been considered by Polugaevsky during his preparation for the game – a witness to that was Grandmaster Geller, who happened to glance into his colleague's room. Imagine his surprise when the next day he actually saw it in a real game.

25...♕f6!

The only defence. Losing rapidly were both 25...♕e7 26.h6! and 25...♘xd1 26.e7 ♕e8 27.exf8♕+ ♕xf8 28.♘h6+! gxh6 29.♕g6+ ♔h8 30.♖e8.

26.♕xf6 gxf6 27.♖d2!

The apparently very strong 27.♘d6 is a false trail: 27...♘xd1 28.e7 ♖c1! and Black survives. At the board Polugaevsky didn't see this defence, but there's a higher justice in the fact that he intuitively chose the correct continuation..

27...♖c6! 28.♖xb2 ♖e8?!

In time-trouble Black misses a chance to put up a more stubborn defence: 28...♗c8, after which his opponent would have to play accurately: 29.♘h6+! (29.e7? ♖e8 30.♘d8 ♖c7 31.♖be2 d4 32.♖d2 ♖cxe7 33.♖xe7 ♖xe7 34.♖xd4 ♖d7 would give Black real chances of surviving) 29...♔h7 30.♘f5 ♖xe6 31.♖c1!, with a white advantage.

29.♘h6+ ♔h7 30.♘f5 ♖exe6 31.♖xe6 ♖xe6 32.♖c2 ♖c6 33.♖e2 ♗c8 Little better was 33...♖c7 34.♖e6! d4 35.♖xf6 d3 36.♖h6+ ♔g8 37.♖d6 ♗e4 38.♘e3 and White wins.

34.♖e7+ ♔h8

34...♔g8 would only have slightly complicated White's task. The following line is easy to find at the board: 35.♘h4! ♖c1+ 36.♔h2 ♖c4 37.f4 ♖xf4 38.♘g6 ♖f5 39.g4 ♖g5 40.♖e8+ ♔g7 41.♖xc8 ♖xg4 42.♔h3 ♖a4 43.♔g3 ♖xa2 44.♘f4, and wins.

35.♘h4! f5 36.♘g6+ ♔g8 37.♖xa7 Black resigned.

Polugaevsky was unquestionably a follower of Botvinnik's scientific approach to chess. It's symbolic, then, that one of the most striking examples of his profound insight into the mysteries of a position was a stunning novelty in the Botvinnik Variation.

SL 7.8 – D44
Lev Polugaevsky
Eugenio Torre
Moscow 1981 (6)

1.d4 d5 2.c4 c6 3.♘f3 ♘f6 4.♘c3 e6 5.♗g5 dxc4 6.e4 b5 7.e5 h6 8.♗h4 g5 9.♘xg5 hxg5 10.♗xg5 ♘bd7 11.exf6 ♗b7 12.g3 c5 13.d5

'At the risk of losing precious time I spent around half a month during the preparation for the match against Mecking (1977) analysing the tabiya of the Botvinnik Variation. The risk proved justified. One sleepless night, totally absorbed by work, I literally shuddered: as if catching a firebird by the tail I'd grasped an absolutely new idea. In the match it wasn't needed, and the sheet of paper with the notes lay around for more than four years!' Polugaevsky's words partly explain the nature of his opening discoveries.

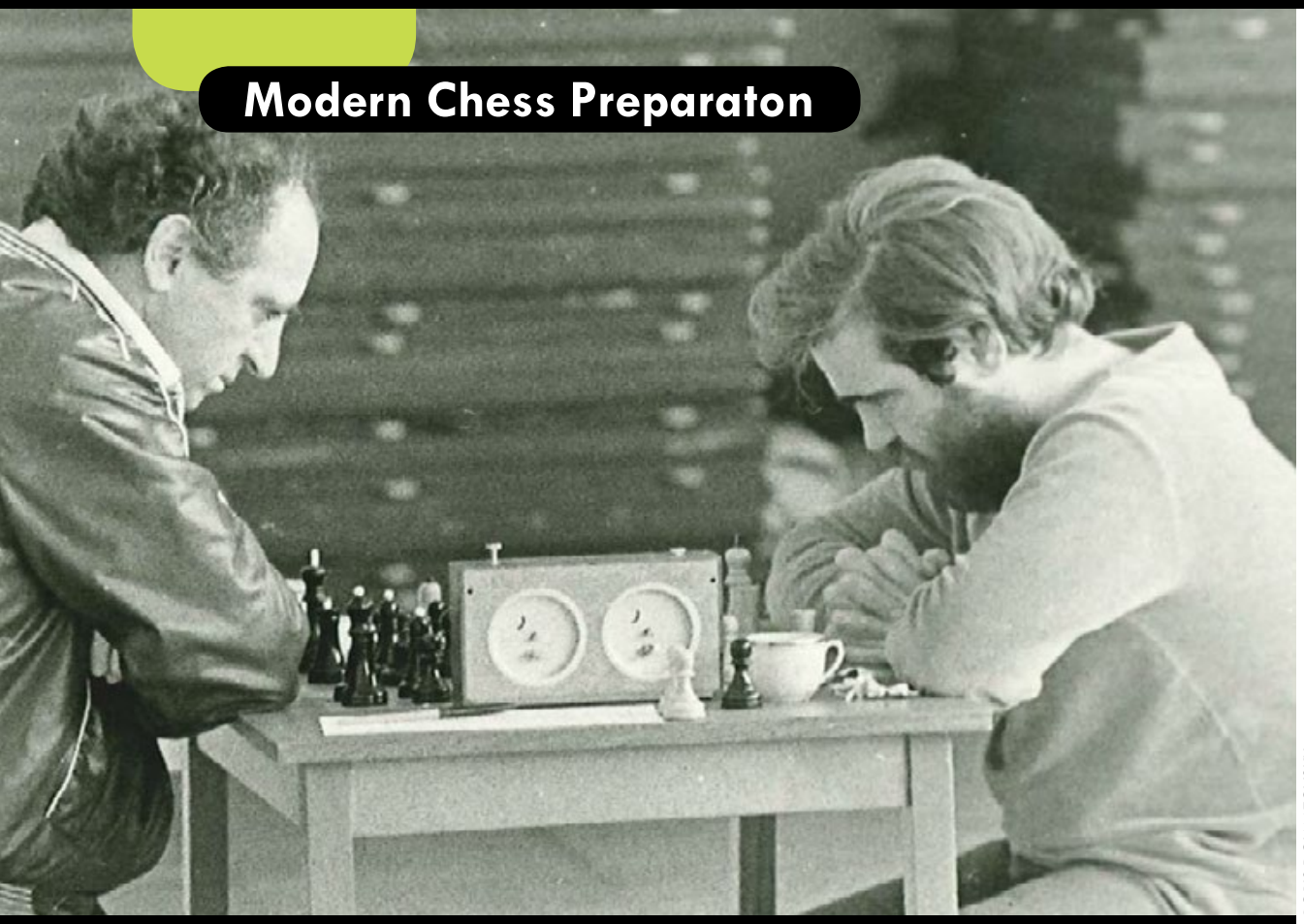
13...♘b6?!

On the basis of this game this move, that had up until then been considered almost the main line, was discarded (it can't be ruled out that it's only until better times). As for other continuations in this position, then that's a theme for special monographs.

14.dxe6! ♕xd1+ 14...♗xh1 15.e7 ♕d7 (15...♕xd1+ 16.♖xd1 leads to the position in the game) 16.♕xd7+ ♘xd7 17.♘xb5 ♗xe7 18.fxe7 f6 19.♗f4 clearly favours White.

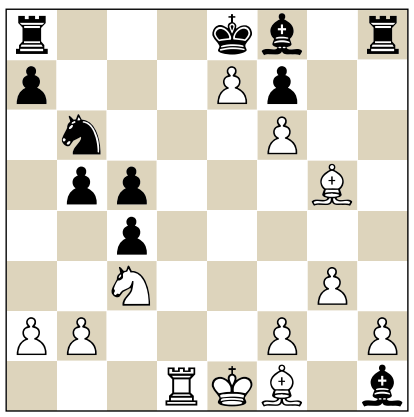
15.♖xd1 ♗xh1 16.e7

The Kasparov Special
DVD 1 - Teenage Prodigy
DVD 2 - Joining the Elite
DVD 3 - Rebels and Renegades
DVD 4 - Hitting the Wall
DVD 5 - Rite of Passage
The complete series for just 59,95 €
Now at www.topschach.de
100% QUALITY
TOPSCHACH.de



BORIS DOLMATOVSKY

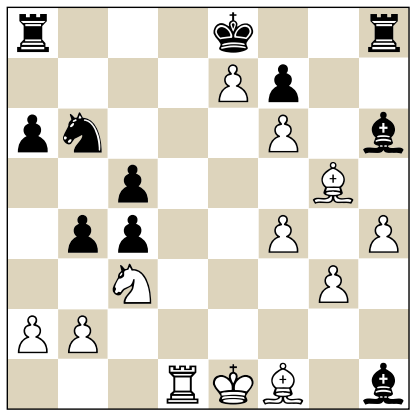
Deep concentration. Lev Polugaevsky ponders his move, while Lev Pakhis remains glued to the board.



♔xf8! 18.♖d6 ♖b8 19.♗e3 ♖h5 20.♗e2 ♖e5 was successfully defended by Polugaevsky's long-term trainer Bagirov against Plachetka (Berlin 1979) and Beliavsky (Moscow 1981).

17...♗h6 18.f4! Now Black's king's rook is forced to remain confined, the e7-pawn ties down the king, and spirit overcomes matter.

18...b4



Passive defence is totally unpromising: 18...♗xg5 19.fxg5 ♖b8 20.♖d6! ♗a8 21.♗h3 – Black is absolutely helpless.

19.♖d6! The Metal Friend confidently gives this move as the best... in the struggle for a draw! It makes a useless guide in such positions. The human genius embodied by Polugaevsky, however, not only discovered a fantastic idea inaccessible to any program, but also polished it with computer-like precision.

19...♖b8! Also of little help is 19...bxc3 20.♖xb6 cxb2 (20...c2 21.♔d2 ♔d7 22.♗xc4 ♗e4 23.♖xa6!) 21.♗xc4 ♗c6 22.♖xb2 a5 23.♖b5! ♖c8 24.♖xa5. In all variations Black's material edge turns out to be an illusion, as the h8-rook never does get involved in the struggle.

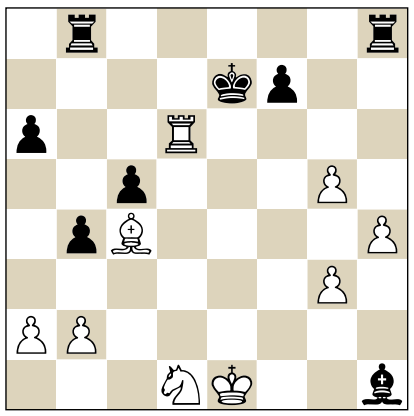
20.♘d1 ♗xg5

For 20...♗e4 Kasparov gives the following beautiful variation: 21.♘e3 c3 22.♗xa6 ♘d7 23.♘c4 cxb2 24.♘xb2 ♗b1 25.♖d1 ♗xa2 26.♗c4 b3 27.♗b5! ♖xb5 28.♘c4 with inevitable mate.

21.fxg5 ♘d5!

Losing is 21...♗d5 22.♘e3 ♗e6 23.♗g2 ♗d7 24.♗c6! (stronger and more beautiful than the 24.♗e4 indicated by Polugaevsky) 24...♗xc6 25.♘f5! ♖g8 26.♘g7+ ♖xg7 27.♖d8+ ♖xd8 28.exd8♕+ ♔xd8 29.fxg7. However, isolated inaccuracies in the analysis only underline the human nature of this great idea.

22.♗xc4 ♘xe7 23.fxe7 ♔xe7



24.♖f6!

Domination is more important than pawns. 24.♖xa6 ♖he8! 25.♖f6 ♔f8+ gave Black chances of survival.

16...a6

A possible rehabilitation of this variation is connected to 16...♗c6!? 17.♖d6:

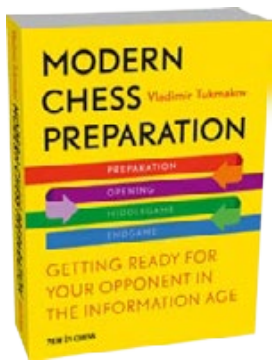
A) Losing is 17...♖c8 18.h4 ♗h6 19.f4 ♘d7 20.♗h3 ♖c7 21.♘d5 ♗xd5 22.♖xd5;

B) 17...♗d7 18.♘e4! ♗f5 (18...♖g8 19.♖d5! ♗xe7 20.♖e5) 19.♘xc5 is also inadvisable;

C) 17...b4! Only like this! 18.♖xc6 bxc3 19.bxc3 ♗h6 20.♗h4. Contrary to the game White doesn't manage to set up a pawn chain with h4 and f4, while with a working bishop on h6 Black's prospects aren't so bad: 20...♔d7 21.♖xc5 ♗f4 with good chances of survival.

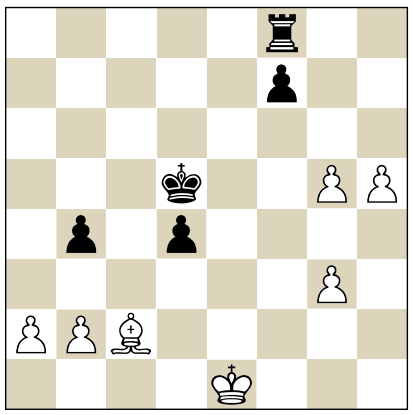
17.h4!!

The position arising after 17.exf8♕+



Modern Chess Preparation
Vladimir Tukmakov
New In Chess
2012

24...♖hf8 25.♘e3 ♗e4 26.♖xa6
Black has escaped from White's clutches, but at a high cost. Now White doesn't only have a positional advantage, but also a material one.
26...♖bd8 27.♖f6! ♖d6 28.♖f4 ♖d4 29.h5 ♗d3! 30.♘d5+!
Polugaevsky claimed his home analysis had stretched right up until this position. It's hard even to imagine such a thing!
30...♔d6 31.♖xd4 cxd4 32.♗b3?!
When everything had essentially already been done, hard-to-explain errors crept in. There was a simple win with 32.♗xd3 ♔xd5 33.h6 ♖g8 34.h7 ♖h8 35.♔d2 – also fine is the straightforward 35.a4.
32...♗c2! 33.♗xc2 ♔xd5

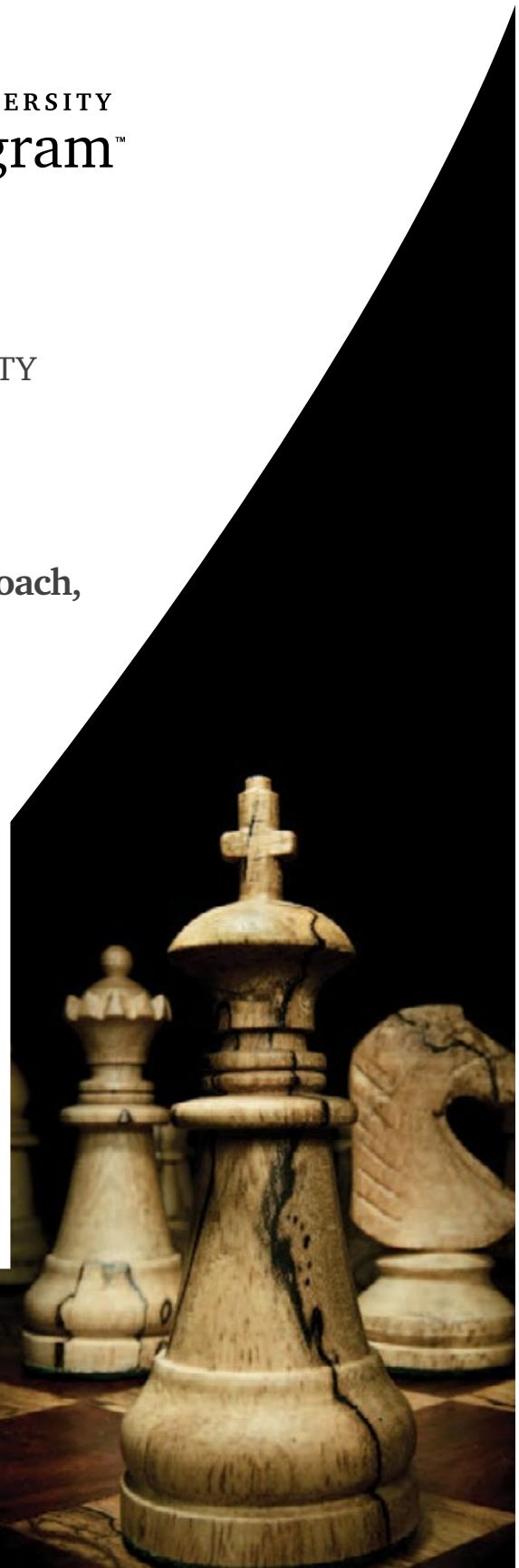


34.♗b3+?
A mistake provoked, it seems, by some kind of hallucination. There was still an easy win after 34.h6, or the equally good 34.♔d2.
34...♔e5 35.g4 ♔f4?
Black's blunder, however, is easy to explain: fatigue after an extremely tough defence combined with time trouble. The draw could have been achieved with surprising ease: 35...d3! 36.g6 fxg6 37.hxg6 ♔f6 38.♔d2 (38.♗f7 ♖c8) 38...♖d8 39.♗f7 ♖d4. Now, however, everything is again over:
36.g6 ♔e3 36...fxg6 37.hxg6 ♖e8+ 38.♔d2 ♖e7 39.♗f7.
37.g7 ♖c8 38.♔f1 d3 39.♔g2 ♔f4 40.h6 Black resigned.
Polugaevsky's idea makes a momentous impression. Everything about it, from the paradoxical idea to the accurately checked variations, is flawless. ■

TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY
Chess Program™

TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY
is proud to welcome
Al Lawrence, Director,
& **GM Alex Onischuk, Coach,**
to the TTU Chess Program.

GM Alex Onischuk
Coach, TTU Chess Program



The TTU Chess Program Offers
Scholarship Opportunities.
WWW.DEPTS.TTU.EDU/TTUCHESS
CHESS@TTU.EDU | 1-806-742-7742

The Native Hue of Resolution

Luke McShane

Thus Conscience does make Cowards of us all,
And thus the Native hue of Resolution
Is sicklied o'er, with the pale cast of Thought...

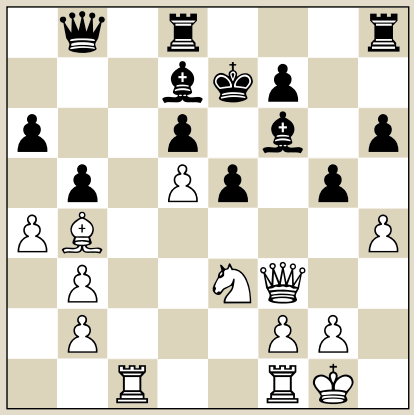
Hamlet might as well have been talking about chess. What player isn't familiar with their thoughts getting in the way of good decisions?

Edward Winter's website *chesshistory.com* brings to my attention that Emanuel Lasker has already trodden this path, in asking himself whether Hamlet was a chess player. Apparently, this is what Lasker wrote:
'... The artistic conscience sometimes makes him who has it a coward – or, let us say, a Hamlet of the chess board.

'I wonder if Hamlet was a chess player. From his character it seems indeed likely. If he was, he probably played a weak but imaginative game, with a craving to improve upon the best move and therefore often missing it.'

Hamlets of the chess board are frequent types. Once in the meshes of combination they lose themselves in its intricacies, and evolve ideas that are so infinitely subtle that they have no vitality. Then is the moment when fate, usually with a somewhat brutal, matter-of-fact blow, wakes them out of their dreams.

Indeed, you probably know some 'Hamlets of the chess board' yourself. But I don't think that's the only meaning to be found in those words. Our thoughts can assail our abilities from more than one direction. Sometimes the trouble with the thoughts is that they get stuck on the same old tracks, dependent on incorrect assumptions about the type of move or idea we should be seeking out. Alternatively, the attempt to impose a thought 'process' on a position is utterly unhelpful. Willy Hendriks' punchily titled new book *Move First, Think Later* hits the spot right away with this example:



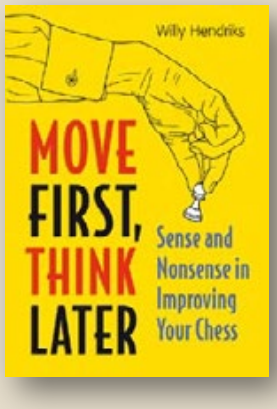
Balashov-Sunye Neto
Wijk aan Zee 1982

'Trainer: "You've had the chance to have a look at the position. What's it about, what are the most important characteristics of this position? Paul, do you have an idea?"
Paul: "Uh, yes, I would play ♖c6 and if he takes it I will have ♘d5."
Trainer: "Yes, you come up with moves right away. But let's go back to the characteristics of the position, can you say something about them?"
Paul: "Well, uh, ♖c6 threatens to take on d6, I don't see what Black can do about it, if he takes it, I take back and ♘d5 is coming, what can he do then?"'

Hendriks's point is that it is inappropriate and unnatural to think in the manner which the 'Trainer' in this example is advocating. As a chess trainer himself, it's his conviction that much of the conventional wisdom in chess instruction is meaningless guff, based on no empirical evidence, and quite possibly counter-productive to boot. Hendriks' subtitle, 'Sense and Nonsense in Improving your Chess' gives a good indication of what this book is about. Much of the book consists in a well-considered critique of the 'nonsense', but there is a significant constructive aspect, too. The good 'sense' for improving your chess is, essentially, that one learns chess from studying concrete positions. (Concrete can be taken to mean that positions are often – though clearly not always – best considered as being a lesson in themselves, rather than instances of a general theme; it doesn't mean studying tactics exclusively.)

Each of the 27 chapters contains a sort of essay and some exercises which make the book extremely readable, and usually serve to illustrate the ideas in question. One I particularly admired was the essay on 'Chance in Chess', where Hendriks considers the fact that we attach a great deal of significance to plus or minus scores, and the order in which they fall ('He started badly but recovered his confidence and finished well', etc.). According to Hendriks, 'the way in which mistakes, excellent moves, and everything in between, are divided over our games, is much more random than many people think'. As a result, we can experience significant fluctuations in performance without any fundamental changes in our strength. (And that's before you consider the fact that our opponents may also play above or below their normal level) It's not a claim suitable for proof, but I think the message to be gleaned is that one should not jump to conclu-

sions and construct stories to 'explain' the pattern of one's results. To see the wisdom of this, it may be enough to consider the fact that in many games, half a point (or more) hinges on a single decision. You only need to string together a couple of good or bad decisions together in a row to start feeling like a genius or, indeed, a fool. This



Move First, Think Later
Willy Hendriks
New In Chess, 2012

fact really sunk in for me after a tournament a couple of years ago. I had been preparing keenly beforehand, and was hoping for a good result. As it turned out, I got a couple of rotten positions, failed to convert other advantages, and by the end felt very fortunate to have a result close to par in rating terms. Despite that, I felt strongly that my concentration, effort and preparation had been as good as I could have hoped. (Likewise, it would probably be indulging in another fallacy to observe that my optimism was vindicated at the following tournament, where I had a much better result.)

Hendriks mostly discusses chance from the point of view of mistakes. But it reminded me of something Beliavsky wrote in his excellent chess autobiography *Uncompromising Chess*, which, at the time I read it, was quite shocking to me.

'Rome and sport, more than other factors, have formulated my attitude to the competitive process. I share the conviction of the Romans, that victory in battle is granted by the immortal gods and is therefore outside the will of the commander. It is the same in a chess battle. Without at all pretending to resolve the philosophical question regarding the relationship between free will and predetermination, I will risk proposing that the result of a chess game depends considerably less on the efforts of a player than is customarily thought. Therefore the task of a chess commander reduces to trying to find the best possible moves, without worrying about the result.

'Fatigue and failure, more than other factors, influence the mood and competitiveness of a player after the game. A bottle of good wine may help to cope with fatigue, but, in order not to become dispirited by the result, you should seek inspiration from the thoughts of Seneca: "In this life, stormy like a sea, there is one refuge: disdain future vicissitudes, stand dependably and openly, staunchly meet the blows of fortune, do not hide and do not flinch".

A skirmish in chess can lead us in all kinds of unexpected directions, and over time I have come to realise

Break the Rules
Neil McDonald
Everyman Chess, 2012

that it is quite feasible to lose a game against an evenly matched player without making any moves for which one should reproach oneself. That said, I think this attitude is best kept strictly for the post-mortem. I dare not imagine how badly I would play if I anticipated divine intervention would determine the result!

Neil McDonald's book *Break the Rules* starts from another of the premises which I mentioned earlier – that our learned habits of thought can occasionally prevent us from even noticing

Play with the world's best correspondence chess players on one of the most advanced chess servers in the world.

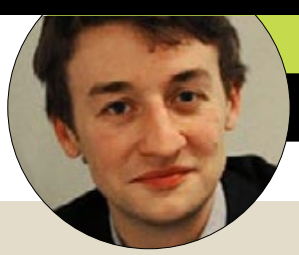
Register at: **www.iccf-webchess.com**

Join a team of thousands playing great chess at ICCF.

ICCF also offers World Championships, Olympiads, and many other Team and Individual Tournaments where you can participate from any place around the globe.

View live games of the world's best players – also free games downloads.

Contact us at: **www.iccf.com**

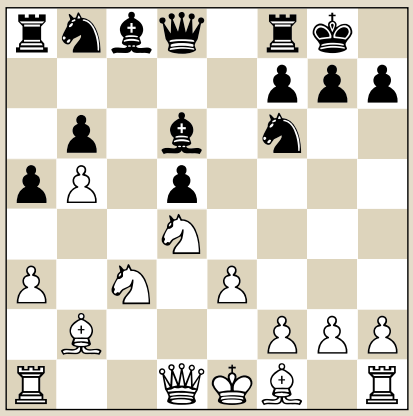


Through the Luking Glass

the moves with the most potential, let alone playing them. Remember that advice: 'Don't play for Scholar's mate! You'll regret developing your queen so early in the game.' It doesn't take long for the first pangs of conscience to develop in a chess personality, and before long we have enough preferences, biases and shortcomings to constitute a style. McDonald examines various situations in which there are potent opportunities for breaking out of such preconceptions, such as bold adventures with the king, and 'The Power of Ugly Pawn moves'.

Most of the games are annotated with a light touch, drawing attention to the critical moments rather than delving into detailed variations. Decisions about when to 'break the rules' are not going to suddenly become easier, but I think this book is best approached as a collection of unusual games and ideas, thoughtfully presented. One useful nugget of advice is this one:

'A lot of moves in the middlegame are only explicable in terms of endgame values, or more specifically by the prospect of acquiring a passed pawn in the endgame. If you only judge a move by Carlsen or Kramnik on its immediate effect, you might have to fall back on that most stupid of explanations for things you don't understand: 'a good player is allowed to break the rules'. Instead ask yourself if he or she is thinking about creating a passed pawn in the distant future, and everything might suddenly become clear.



Capablanca-Janowski
San Sebastian 1911

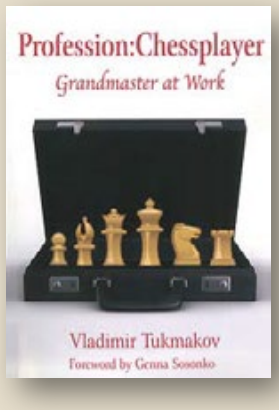
Here Capablanca played **13.♗e2** and later commented in *My Chess Career*: "A mistake, the cause of most of my future trouble. I saw at the time that 13.g3 seemed the proper continuation, but I became afraid of being criticized for creating such a formation of pawns on the kingside, and hence the selection of this bad move against my better judgement. It must be remembered that I was playing my first big tournament, and did not want to be criticized for doing what poor players do." In the game Black built up an initiative with **13...♗e6 14.♗f3 ♖a7!** A fine lateral development of the rook – unlike his opponent Janowski isn't afraid to play 'strange' moves. **15.0-0 ♖c7 16.♕b3 ♘bd7 17.♖fd1 ♘e5 18.♗e2 ♕e7 19.♖ac1 ♖fc8**
White went on to win the game, but the lack of pressure against d5 made Black's development a little bit easier, and later Janowski even uncorked a sacrifice on h2.'

It's curious that Capa even admits that he might have been socially embarrassed by playing 13.g3. It's as if a strongly developed chess conscience is not just a set of principles we have acquired for chess, but actually an extension of our everyday morality, where fear of opprobrium can prevent us from following our instincts just as much as 'knowing the rules' or fear of the consequences. The justice of the chess board can be rough, but is inconsistently applied. No wonder that we acquire our conscience through more reliable methods than trial and error.

Vladimir Tukmakov's autobiography, *Profession: Chessplayer*, is lent a very intimate touch by the split personality through which he describes the events of his early life. Apart from the typical autobiographical narrator, we are introduced to Tukmakov's conscience, if you will.
'When did I come into his life? Neither he, nor I can remember the exact date... I was guiding him, a thinker and a bit of a bore, too proper, bookish and with no real life experience (where would it come from?), down the right path, or rather, I was helping him avoid clearly wrong ones. We were groping our way through life together, but he was tormented by doubts and insecurities, and I did not take off the mask of an omniscient sage.'

Tukmakov's account spans his development from a talented youngster into a top Soviet Grandmaster and, more recently, the coach of the gold-medal winning Ukrainian national team. The autobiographical section is personal and thoroughly absorbing, and no less interesting are the games themselves, annotated in considerable detail. By way of example, he relates that after committing himself to a life as a student of theoretical physics he received an invitation to the World Youth Championship qualifier. His impulse was to decline, having thrown himself into academic work, as well as being rather rusty at that point. But then, as so many players can attest, it seems Tukmakov has begun to miss playing chess, and he drolly comments that a possible failure in the tournament would confirm that he had made the right choice. This sense of freedom led to a great result, although his alter ego admits 'I had nothing to do with it; a career in science seemed to me far more reliable and secure employment.' It seems Vladimir Tukmakov managed to break the rules after all. ■

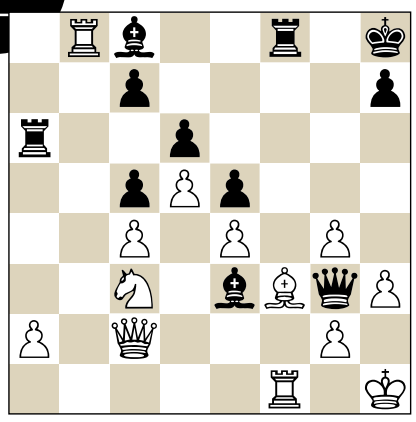
Profession: Chessplayer
Vladimir Tukmakov
Russell Enterprises, 2012



Forcing Moves

Solutions of page 69

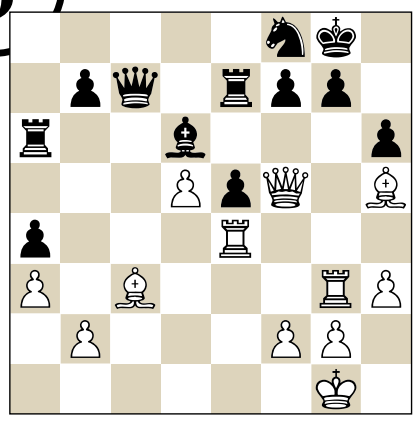
1



Tan Zhongyi-Xie Jun
China 2006

1...♖xf3! A stock shot, but hanging two men with check is pleasing. **2.♖xc8+ ♔g7 3.♖xc7+ ♔g6 4.♕e2** 4.gxf3 ♕xh3+; 4.♖xf3 ♕e1+. **4...♖xf1+ 5.♕xf1 ♗f4 6.♔g1 ♕xc3** And wins. Among females, Xie Jun's tactical flair is surpassed only by Judit Polgar, the strongest woman ever.

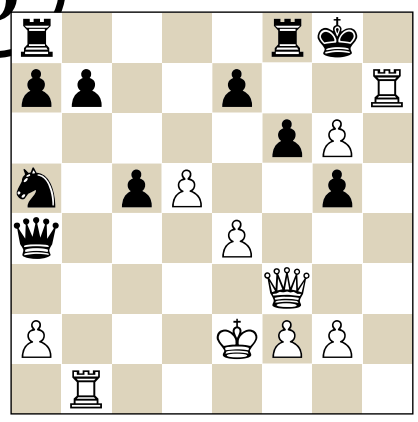
3



Ni Hua-Tiviakov
Reggio Emilia 2008/09

1.♖xg7+! is a nice brute force win: **1...♔xg7 2.♖g4+ ♘g6 3.♗xg6 ♔f8 4.♗h7** Or 4.♕f6 ♔e8 5.♗f5 ♖d7 6.♖g8+ ♗f8 7.♕g7 ♕c5 8.♖xf8+ ♕xf8 9.♗xd7+. **4...♖d7 5.♖g8+ ♔e7 6.♗g6! 1-0** With the cute point 6...♗xa3 7.d6+! ♔xd6 8.♗xe5+.

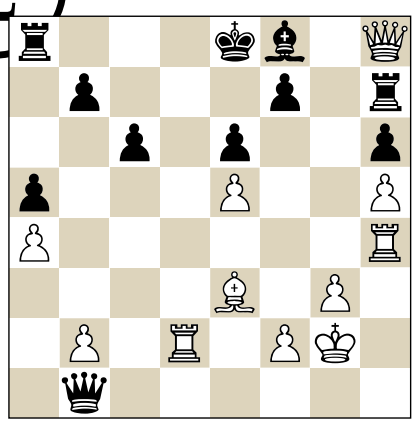
5



Ding Liren-Li Shilong
Beijing 2010

Home cooking tasted delicious after **1.♕f5! ♕c2+ 2.♔f3 ♕c3+ 3.♔g4 ♕e5 4.♖bh1 ♕f4+ 5.♕xf4 gxf4 6.♔f5!** And the rooks mate. **1-0**

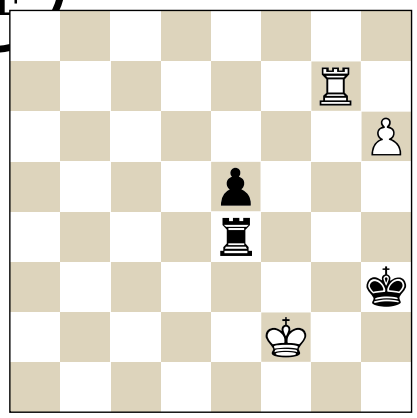
2



Wang Yue-Yu Ruiyuan
Shenzhan 2010

1.♕f6 ♗e7 What else? The threat was 2.♖hd4 ♗e7 3.♖g4! as in the game, and neither 1...c5 2.♖g4 nor 1...♕f5 2.♕xf5 are serious bids to hold. **2.♖g4! 1-0**

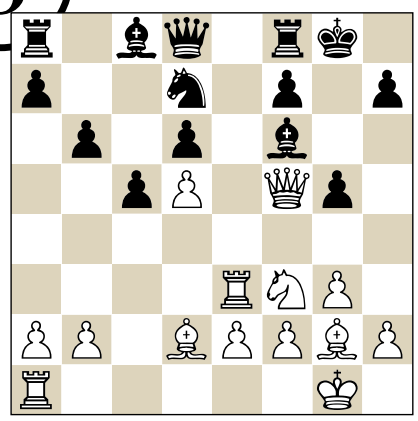
4



Zhou Weiqi-Li Chao
Danzhou 2011

Rooks are the drawing pieces because of their tactical prowess, not their (limited) skill at passive defence. The attacking rook is also endowed with a wealth of tactical motifs: **1.h7 ♖h4 2.♔g1!** An unusual forcing retreat by the king. 3.♖g2 decides matters. **1-0**

6



Bu Xiangzhi-Vladimirov
Guangzhou 2010

1.♘xg5! ♗xg5 2.♗e4 ♖e8 3.♕xh7+ ♔f8 4.♗g6! White plays in good concrete human fashion. 4.♖f3 also wins but the variations are much more complicated. **4...♕f6** Of course 4...fxg6 5.♖f3+ is lights out. **5.♖f3 ♘e5 6.♖xf6 ♗xf6 7.♗f5 ♔e7 8.♗xc8 ♖axc8 9.♕e4 1-0**

Hans Ree

Dancing dervish at the chess board

The Stress of Chess... And Its Infinite Finesse, Walter Browne's chess autobiography, relates the breathless life of a chess pro who sometimes had to win quickly in a last round to catch his plane for the next tournament. Hans Ree used to watch Walter with amazed respect.

Those who have seen Walter Browne (born 1949) in a time scramble will not easily say that chess can never be a popular spectator sport. As Yasser Seirawan describes Walter's performance in his foreword to the book, 'Cobra fast, he could make 20 moves within one minute, and those 20 moves were like perfect links in a chain leading to victory. It was truly remarkable to see him in action while in time-trouble. He was a demon. Anyone caught playing time-trouble blitz against him would likely fail, as again and again Walter would come through the most harrowing clock pressure in better shape than when he started.'

Quite. Yasser rightly stresses the quality of Walter's play in time-trouble, but although he calls him a demon, he still doesn't do full justice to the quality of the spectacle.

A high-voltage electric current sweeps through Walter's body. Bang! The board is lashed. Wham! That one is for the clock. And the daggers that flow from his eyes might be aimed at spectators or players at an adjacent board who inadvertently disturb the peace. Amazingly, he usually found time to write down his moves.

For those who didn't have the opportunity to see him in live action, there is a very short YouTube video of him playing against Alexandra Kosteniuk. I think it was at the U.S. Open in Fort Lauderdale in 2004. In my database the game is given only till move 29. As far as I can make out, the video starts two moves later.

There, Browne (55 at the time) seems to have lost little of the exuberance of his youth. In contrast, Kosteniuk sits motionless, quietly making her moves. She must also have been in time-trouble, because she doesn't write down the moves. Superquick Browne makes at least marks on his scoresheet and he wins the game. Only 25 seconds of video, and it made me realize once again what a pity it is that you're generally only allowed to picture the players during the first five minutes of the game, when nothing is happening.

Polar Wind, Stone Egg

I have done my bit in dealing with the Brownean movements. I think we played 12 serious games, of which I won one and lost three. Fair enough, as he was by far the better player. But I still almost cry when I think of some occasions when I allowed myself to be carried away by his time-trouble.

The most dramatic one, from my point of view, was at the Hoogovens tournament in Wijk aan Zee in 1981. I had tricked Walter in the opening and at move 13 I was winning, though not as easily as I thought at the time. From about move 22 on, Walter was in terrible time-trouble, still with a very bad position. Around that time he confidently offered a draw and was a bit offended when I just laughed. I messed it up and started to use a lot of time myself. When we had made the time-control I was dead lost, just as Yasser describes it.

I still have the article about that traumatic game that I wrote for a Dutch weekly, and now I am not sure if I was whining or jesting. My hotel room, in an annexe outside the hotel building, had originally been occupied by Adorjan, who had left it because a polar wind was blowing through chinks and holes. I had been the softy that could be persuaded to take his place.

At breakfast my egg was as hard as an excavated duck's egg from the Ming Dynasty and when I asked why, the waitress said that it was because Mr. Browne had complained that the eggs were too soft. So in the battle of wills I had already suffered two defeats.

While re-reading these feeble explanations for my loss I was able to smile, but I was shocked by the poor quality of my analysis. Where I had seen easy wins, the computer now sees only an advantage, and after I had messed it up, at the point where I wrote that I still had a draw in hand, the computer

sees a forced mate for Walter. Really awful. I must have been still in shock when I wrote that.

Facing a Dervish

Letting oneself be carried away in one's opponent's time-trouble is not only dumb, it also shows a weakness of character. It is caused by lack of confidence. You see that you are winning, but subconsciously you fear that you will spoil it. Out of that fear you hurry, to get it over with quickly. As far as I could make out, Walter Browne knew no fear. Or if he did, it was the kind that makes people do reckless things, in defiance.

Many of the time-trouble specialists that I have known habitually appeared late at the board, thereby almost assuring themselves of their time scramble, when adrenalin flows and decisions are made in split seconds in a roller coaster ride between the jaws of the Beast. Who cares that it is far from safe?

But what about the opponent? It is quite disturbing to face a dancing dervish at the board. I don't think that Walter deliberately disturbed his opponents, but you can't be sure. As an Internet commentator at the Anand-Gelfand match in Moscow, Jan Timman made an amusing remark about the antics of Kasparov, which were quite moderate compared to Walter's explosions, but nevertheless annoying to some opponents. Jan said: 'At the start of Garry's career it was clear that he did it to disturb his opponents, but over the years this behaviour had become so natural to him that he also did it when he was playing against computers.'

A House with a View

Somewhere in his book Browne mentions a *Sports Illustrated* article of January 12, 1976 about him 'by the creative writer Ray Kennedy.' Though creative is obviously meant in the sense of bending the truth, I googled this article, auspiciously called 'Making all the Right Moves', and found a quite creative description of Walter Browne at the U.S. Championship in Oberlin in 1975: 'Unshaven, scowling, twisting his Mongol moustache and shaking his long dark mane, he looked like some kind of tribal hit man masquerading in flared jeans and floral shirt.' And that was not even in time-trouble.

Kennedy was obviously impressed, as he should be, by Walter's incredible energy, determination and sense of purpose: to become World Champion, while on the side supporting himself by playing almost every money game known to American man; poker, backgammon, blackjack and surely a lot of other card games. Scrabble he played on the phone for a small wager against Lester Schonbrun, the self-described U.S. Scrabble Champion, according to Kennedy. Not many people will know that the plural of rotl is artal, but Walter did. A strong game of tennis he only played for relaxation, I suppose.

He made it clear to Kennedy, as he does in this autobiography, that none of these games come close to the splendour of chess, 'the most profound game ever created.'

The journalist was invited to Walter's $65,000 mountain villa, acquired with help of his poker earnings. Walter is described as a doting host, his Argentine wife Raquel as a gourmet cook. Their wine cellar is well stocked.

Walter steps out on the terrace, surveying the twinkling expanse of the San Francisco Bay, and talks about his intention to challenge Bobby Fischer to a multi-million dollar match, smoking him out of his seclusion. He was 25 at the time, like Bobby a former drop-out of Erasmus Hall High school, who had always firmly followed the rule that he should only do the things he wanted to do, and he had flourished. What a life!

More Trouble with the Clock

Ray Kennedy followed Walter to Westfield, where he would give a simul and a lecture about what he called 'the game of the decade', Browne-Bisguier, Chicago 1974. The organizer Denis Barry, a future president of the USCF, told Kennedy an anecdote about Walter's early years: 'I remember when Walter was 14 and he came here for a tournament. He kept slipping off to play pool in the basement, and when he got back for one game we had to call a time fault on him. He threw the clock at somebody and then smashed the pieces.'

Running from one game to another; that rang a bell from stories about the older Walter playing in important chess and poker events simultaneously in Las Vegas. And the story about throwing a clock, that appeared familiar too.

The arbiter and chess writer Eric Schiller relates this story about Walter on his page on chessgames.com: 'At one tournament he was angry with people playing blitz near the top boards, and he grabbed their clock and hurled it against the far wall. It landed a few inches from my head, winding up smashed on my board. He wasn't aiming at me (or at all), just threw the thing as hard as he could.' Schiller adds that when arbiters are told to stay in a back room, such things tend to happen and that European visitors are baffled by this practice. I can imagine they are.

Schiller's clock cannot have been the same one as Barry's clock, but maybe it was the same clock that I was told about when I played in the New York International in 1984. Some players from New York told me that Walter had recently thrown a clock against the wall, and they added an endearing touch to the story: as a penance he had given the unlucky owner of the clock the address of a place where it would be repaired cheaply.

I look at Walter's picture on the pages of his own foreword to his autobiography. It doesn't say when it was taken, but I would guess that it pictures a well-preserved roughly 60-year-old. Still handsome, still with the moustache and the smile, but nothing like the burning intensity of the years when I knew him. He looks like a man at ease with himself and with the world. This man won't throw clocks against the wall.

Hans Ree

Bobby Takes Offence

Apparently the article in *Sports Illustrated* caused a temporary estrangement between Walter and Bobby Fischer. As he explains it now, 'many comparisons were drawn between us by the creative writer Ray Kennedy, who had embellished part of my story.'

They had met for the first time when Walter was 14 and, both being New Yorkers, they met more often during the following years. They both liked to make long walks and Walter was probably one of the few chess players to whom Bobby's brisk pace came naturally.

They played only one serious game together, in Zagreb in 1970. It was an epic struggle of 98 moves in which Bobby managed to save a position that had been lost for a long time, with one last trick just before the end.

Early in 1972 Walter visited Bobby in a hotel room in Amsterdam and was pleasantly surprised to find him explaining the game Savon-Browne to a TV crew. It had just been played in Wijk aan Zee and nicely won by Browne. Later that year Walter was invited to visit Bobby in Grossinger's Resort in the Catskill Mountains, where Bobby was preparing for his match against Spassky, but that visit lasted only a few days.

They kept in touch for a while, but Walter hadn't heard from Bobby for almost nine years when in August 1981 he felt honoured by Bobby's first visit to his house. He writes: 'After Bobby was wined and dined and in excellent spirits, we gravitated to my game room as he inspected my book collection, plus we analysed what I considered a nice batch of games from the recent U.S. Championship in Indiana. Overall he was complimentary and for Bobby, who is naturally very critical, this was extraordinary.'

So far, so good. Bobby visited twice more and at his third visit accepted the invitation to stay overnight. But that was the end. The next day Bobby was at the phone for five or six hours straight and Walter, who wanted to share more time with him, told him that there should be a limit to telephone use. He writes: 'He must have taken offence and unfortunately the immature, frustrated and naïve child within him acted out. Bobby left soon after and never made contact with me again. We'd shared very good times and experience of the early days and this is the way I have chosen to cherish him in my memory.'

A Few Memories

In 1971 a group of players was relaxing on a lawn after a round of the U.S. Open in Ventura, California and I made a rude and facetious remark about a player who wasn't present. Walter, passing by and overhearing me, put me in my place with one crisp sentence, not even unfriendly, that made it clear how unbecoming my silly quip had been. So effectively that after more than 40 years I still remember it, to my embarrassment.

A few years later. I think it was in 1975, shortly after the tournament in Wijk aan Zee, in which both Walter and Semyon Furman, Karpov's coach, had participated. I carried Walter on the back of my bike to Furman's hotel in Amsterdam, where they would play some blitz games.

A strange spectacle. Walter acting in his usual energetic way, while the slightly myopic Furman, head near the bord, was quietly moving the pieces. The strangest thing was Walter exclaiming to the venerable man, who was nearly thirty years older than him: 'Check, baby!'

The next one is not my memory, but something I read in the Dutch book *60 Jaar Hoogovens Schaaktoernooi 1938 – 1998*. Between 1972 and 1983 Browne played seven times in this tournament, which has gone under the name Hoogovens, Corus and nowadays Tata. He came first in 1974 and shared first place with Seirawan in 1980. I am not sure of the year of the following event, nor if it really happened at all.

Anyway, the chronicler of Wijk aan Zee history Lex Jongsma tells us that one day Walter came running to the tournament building, jumped over the counter of the reception and went into hiding. Ten seconds later a furious citizen of Wijk aan Zee came running after him, searching to revenge the honour of his wife or daughter. Jongsma seems to be doubtful about the detail, apparently part of Wijk aan Zee lore, that the man was carrying a butcher's knife.

True or not, you don't hear such stories about our modern chess heroes, which is a pity.

A Shrewd TV Host

The Stress of Chess is a hefty tome of 463 pages. About two thirds of it consists of 101 games with analyses, the rest tells the story of Browne's life, with some pages of photographs. The non-technical part is not well written. Readers are inundated with facts with little pretence of weaving a story out of this material.

Just one example: 'In March 1973, I tied for first in the National Open in Las Vegas after marrying my beautiful wife Dr. Raquel Browne on March 9th – by coincidence on Bobby Fischer's birthday! Then a solid result in Lone Pine, tying for 2nd-3rd place with GM Laszlo Szabo at 5½-1½, just behind Arthur Bisguier who won with 6-1.'

He goes on for quite some time, giving the results of many other tournaments of that year. There is far too much of that kind of prose, stuffed with indigestible factual data. To use a phrase of Truman Capote's, this is not writing, but typing.

Still, with a gold digger's sieve many interesting nuggets can be saved from the flow of facts. For the benefit of my Dutch compatriots I'll retell an anecdote that involves IM Hans Böhm, who for decades has been the host of almost every chess programme on Dutch radio or TV.

In 1976, Browne played a one-minute blitz game against Böhm on a popular Dutch television programme. Not sensing any foul play in the air he didn't check the clock, and anyway there was no time for it. Off they went, and it was not until late in the game that he glanced at Böhm's side of the clock

and found to his consternation that his opponent still had his full minute, as his clock hadn't run at all. Browne lost on time.

Dutch players could have warned him, for just like Browne himself Böhm was an accomplished gamester, with an uncanny gift to end blitz games with practically the same time on his clock as he had started with, long before the introduction of increments.

The next day in Amsterdam several people who passed Browne on the streets inquired if he was the guy who had lost to Hans Böhm. Looking back on it and being a good sport, he finds it quite humorous.

101 Great Games

The games are great and are analysed in great detail. The full title of Browne's book is *The Stress of Chess... and its Infinite Finesse*. So far, I think I have given the stress its due place, but the noblesse of Walter's finesse in chess has been badly neglected.

He was a fine opening analyst, specializing in sharp systems like the Najdorf or the King's Indian as Black. A great calculator at the board, who took his time in search of a perfect solution. For instance the key move 14.♗h6 in that 'game of the decade', Browne-Bisguier, was found after a 45-minute think. If we saw it in a contemporary game, we would call it 'obviously computer preparation'.

He played many beautiful endgames. His style could be called 'classical, but with more than a drop of poison': it was aggressive, but always based on a sound positional foundation.

I write all this in the past tense, because he has considered himself to be semi-retired for a long time now. Still playing now and then, but not with the same drive as before. About his situation in the 1990s he writes: 'I studied less and the wheels came off.'

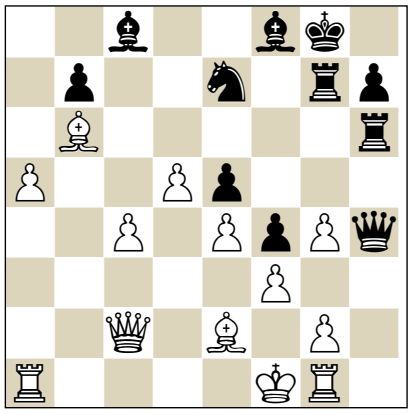
Here is a brilliant game from this period of semi-retirement. His opponent Tal Shaked became World Junior Champion in 1997 and dropped out of chess two years later because of the economic insecurity of life as a chess pro.

In Walter's book, five pages of deep analysis with many wonderful variations are devoted to this game, but of course I will not copy them. Just go with the flow and enjoy.

Not Bad for a Retiree

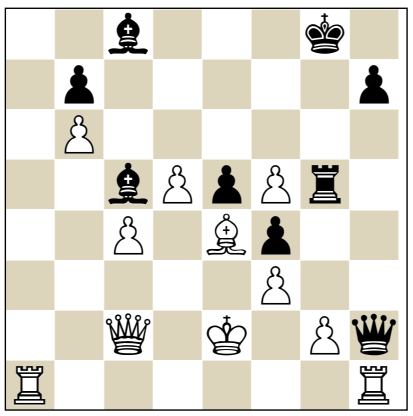
KI 7.7 – E97
Walter Browne
Tal Shaked
Los Angeles 1994

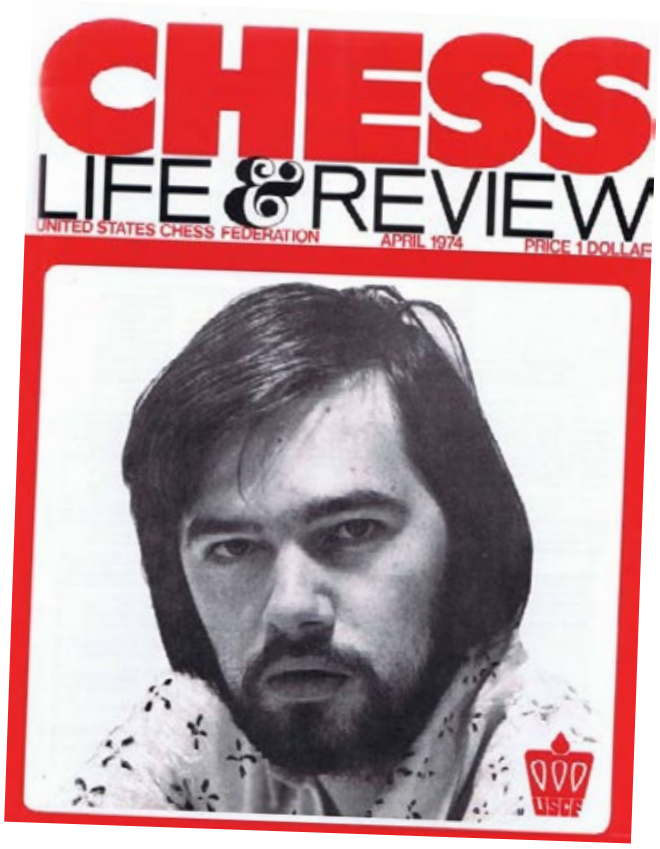
1.d4 ♘f6 2.c4 g6 3.♘c3 ♗g7 4.e4 d6 5.♘f3 0-0 6.♗e2 e5 7.0-0 ♘c6 8.d5 ♘e7 9.♘d2 c6 10.b4 a5 11.bxa5 ♕xa5 12.♕c2 c5 13.♘b3 ♕d8 14.a4 ♘d7 15.♘b5 ♖a6 16.♗e3 f5 17.f3 f4 18.♗f2 g5 19.♖fd1 ♖f7 20.a5 ♗f8 21.♘xd6 ♖xd6 22.♘xc5 ♘xc5 23.♗xc5 ♖h6 24.♗b6 ♕e8 25.h3 ♖g7 26.♔f2 ♕h5 27.♖g1 g4 28.hxg4 ♕h4+ 29.♔f1



As is common in this opening variation, the brilliancies are started by Black, who brings his bishop into position by means of a sequence of sacrifices.

29...♖xb6 30.axb6 ♘f5 31.exf5 ♗c5 32.♗d3 ♕h2 33.♔e2 ♖xg4 34.♗e4 ♖g5 35.♖h1

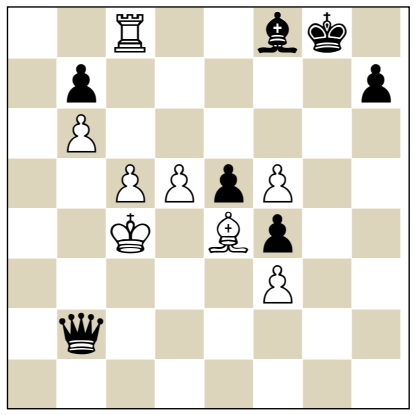




Walter Browne graces the cover of Chess Life & Review in April 1974.

Browne retaliates with a queen sacrifice. He writes: 'Was this a time-pressure mistake or a brilliant winning try in a treacherously complex position?'

35...♖xg2+ 36.♔d3 ♕g3 37.♖a8 ♖xc2 38.♖xc8+ ♗f8 39.♔xc2 ♕g2+ 40.♔b3 ♕xh1 41.c5 ♕d1+ 42.♔b4 ♕d4+ 43.♔b5 ♕b2+ 44.♔c4



44...♕d4+ 45.♔b5
Draw.

Truly an amazing game. At the end of the *Sports Illustrated* article that I mentioned, Walter is quoted saying 'When I'm 70 I'm gonna look back and say, whatever else I was, I was really alive!' Right on! ■

Jan Timman

A fine tradition

‘Everything was good: the organization was solid, the location beautiful, the food excellent. Only these two games in one day...’

The Politiken Cup goes back 33 years. It is an enormous open tournament with almost 300 participants who play 10 rounds in nine days. This formula is rigidly adhered to. There are no side-events. The difference in rating between the highest and the lowest participant was more than 1400 points this year.

From 2007 on, the tournament has taken place in a conference centre in a suburb of Helsingor, the old townlet with the famous Renaissance castle of Kronborg, right across from Sweden. Shakespeare’s *Hamlet* is regularly performed there.

This year I played in Helsingor for the first time. It was a strong tournament, and it seemed a challenge to me to do well. But there was a problem: on Day 2, both the second and the third round would have to be played. Many chess players hate the format of two games in one day. Lajos Portisch, who participated for the second time, emphasized that almost everything was good in Helsingor: the organization was solid, the location beautiful, the food excellent. Only these two games in one day, that was a thorn in his side. In Round 3 he lost a game from a winning position. I myself survived the second day unscathed, but I paid for it the next day. In Round 4 I suffered a terrible loss. Once you’re no longer young, open tournaments are very hard work.

Since there was not going to be a free day either, I had decided to go a day early to be able to visit Kronborg. It’s impressive. The minute you come out of the old train station, you see the castle in all its glory. And not only that; the little town itself has not changed through the centuries either. All buildings have been preserved, and the little streets around the cathedral are pervaded with the same atmosphere that you find in certain spots in Copenhagen.

Tiger Hillarp Persson told me about the Danish king who had conceived such a dislike of his arch-enemy Sweden that he ordered all Kronborg’s windows that looked out on Sweden to be bricked up. He had the same thing done in a smaller castle a bit further south on the coast.

The view of Sweden: in the conference centre Lo-skolen, where we stayed and played, you could enjoy it every day. First there was the magnificent terrace, where you could drink a good glass of wine. And in one of the playing halls you had the same view.

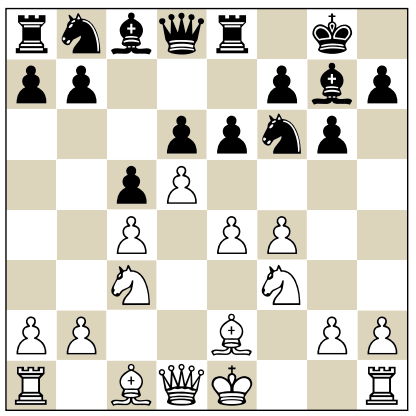
The first 11 boards were in the spacious conference hall. You had no view of the Oresund here, but it contained very beautiful paintings. Later I realized that they were also extremely valuable. Sune Berg Hansen told me that some canvases were worth a million euro. A Danish counterpart of the games in the Tretyakov Gallery.

On the website of the Politiken Cup you can read how Magnus Carlsen scored his first victories there. Open tournaments tend to be a breeding ground for youthful talent. This time, two German juniors drew the eye. In Round 3, Portisch was not the only grandmaster that lost. Romanov was also seen off in no uncertain manner by the 20-year-old Malte Colpe.

KI 57.1 – E77
Malte Colpe
Evgeny Romanov
Helsingor 2012 (3)

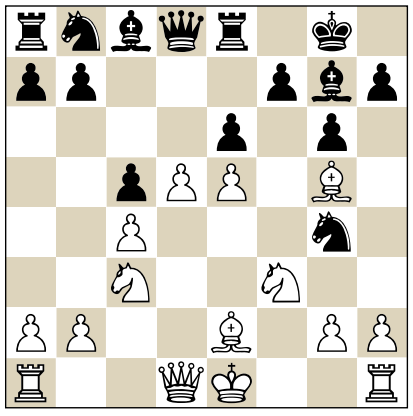
1.d4 ♘f6 2.c4 c5 3.d5 g6 4.♘c3 ♗g7 5.e4 d6 6.f4 0-0 7.♘f3 e6 8.♗e2 ♖e8

It is not clear to me what advantages this rook move has over the immediate swap on d5. Now White has a very sharp continuation.

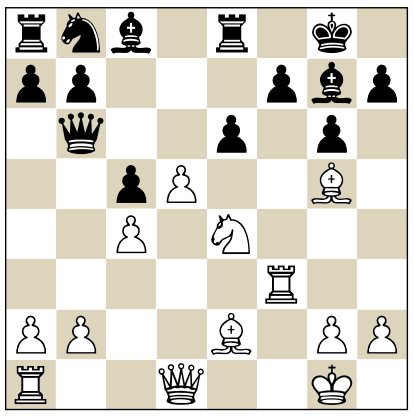


9.e5 Of course.

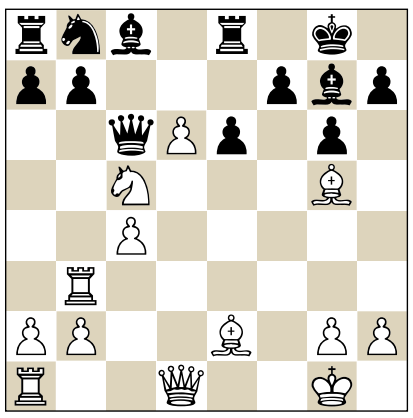
9...dxe5 10.fxe5 ♘g4 11.♗g5



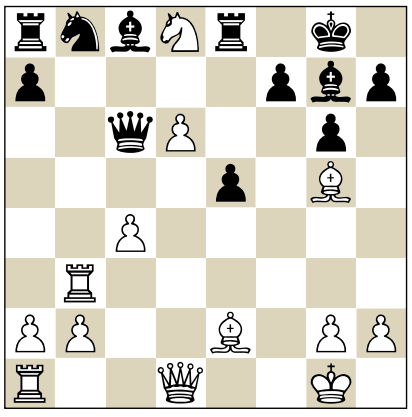
11...♕a5?
After this queen move Black is already in serious trouble. Absolutely necessary was 11... ♕b6, after which things are not completely clear.
12.0-0 ♘xe5
In the only game between grandmasters with this variation, Vaisser-Ki. Georgiev, France 1996, Black played 12...♘d7, and after 13.♘b5 he was also in big trouble.
13.♘e4 The start of a spectacular tour of the knight.
13...♘xf3+ 14.♖xf3 ♕b6



15.♖b3!
Black must have underestimated this intermediate move.
15...♕c7 16.d6 ♕d7 17.♘xc5 ♕c6



18.♘xb7
Devastating, since 18...♗xb7 fails to 19.♗f3 ♕c5+ 20.♗e3, and wins.
18...e5 19.♘d8!

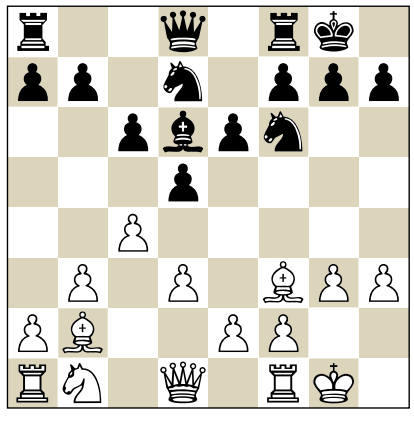


The last knight move. Black might as well resign, but he continues till the bitter end.
19...♖xd8 20.♗xd8 ♗e6 21.♗g5 ♘d7 22.♖c1 f6 23.♗e3 f5 24.c5 a6 25.♖b6 ♘xb6 26.cxb6 ♕e4 27.♗f2 ♖d8 28.♖c7 ♗h6 29.d7 ♗e3 30.b7 ♗xf2+ 31.♔xf2 ♕f4+ 32.♔g1 ♔f7 33.b8♕
Black resigned.

While Colpe's play was too sharp on occasion, 15-year-old Rasmus Svane was notable for his solid approach. He, too, vanquished a Russian grandmaster. Svane was awarded the beauty prize for this win.

RE 26.11 – A07
Vladimir Burmakin
Rasmus Svane
Helsingor 2012 (5)

1.♘f3 d5 2.g3 ♘f6 3.♗g2 c6 4.0-0 ♗g4 5.b3 ♘bd7 6.♗b2 e6 7.d3 ♗d6 8.h3 ♗xf3 9.♗xf3 0-0 10.c4
Less accurate here.



10...dxc4 11.dxc4
He could not take back with the other pawn: 11.bxc4 ♗xg3!. This is in fact a well-known opening trap. White can win an exchange with 12.♗a3, but af-

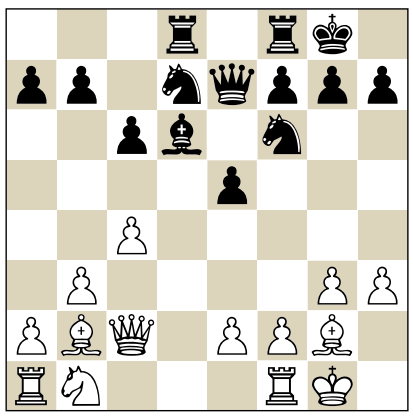
CALLE ERLANDSSON

Fifteen-year-old Rasmus Svane from Germany was awarded the beauty prize for his win against grandmaster Vladimir Burmakin.

Jan Timman

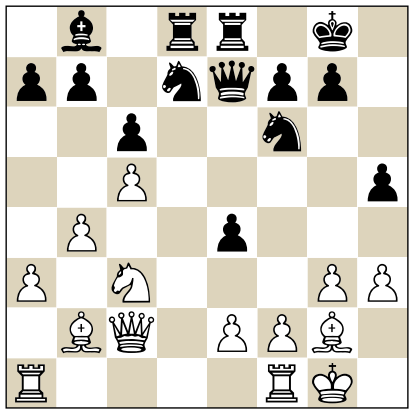
ter 12...♗c7 13.♗xf8 ♘xf8 Black is clearly better.

11...♕e7 12.♕c2 e5 13.♗g2 ♖ad8



14.a3 The start of a somewhat slow plan. It is possible that Burmakin rejected 14.♘c3 in view of 14...♗a3. The bishop swap would be a small strategic success for Black; the enemy bishop pair is eliminated.

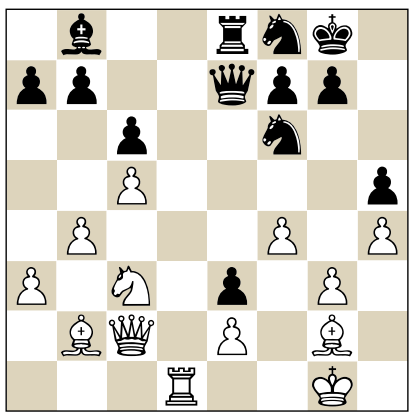
14...♖fe8 15.b4 e4 16.c5 ♗b8 17.♘c3 h5 Energetic play according to the classical rules. Black wants to undermine the enemy kingside.



18.h4

The alternative was 18.e3. After 18...h4 19.g4 ♘e5! Black is fine, and after 20.♘xe4 he has 20...♘exg4.

18...e3 19.f4 ♘f8 20.♖ad1 ♖xd1 21.♖xd1



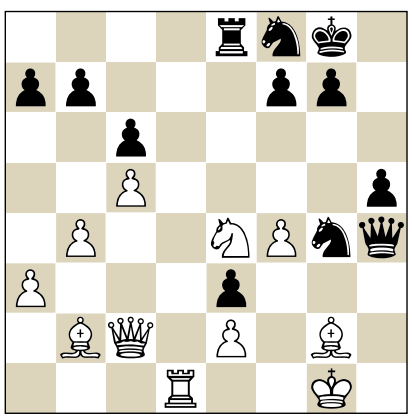
21...♗xf4!

A spectacular piece sacrifice that, with the best play from both sides, should have led to a draw.

22.gxf4 ♘g4 23.♘e4

The alternative was 23.♕e4; after 23...♕xh4 24.♕xe8 Black will have to try for a draw by perpetual check.

23...♕xh4



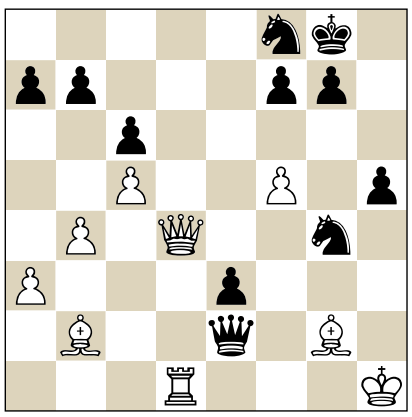
24.f5?

A shot in the dark. Correct was 24.♕c3 f6 25.♕c4+, when Black will have to choose the correct square for his king. After 25...♔h8? 26.♕f7! he would be in insurmountable trouble because he cannot take on e4. Correct is 24...♔h7 25.♕d3 ♔g8, with move repetition.

24...♖xe4!

Winning.

25.♕xe4 ♕f2+ 26.♔h1 ♕h4+ 27.♔g1 ♕f2+ 28.♔h1 ♕xe2 29.♕d4



29...♕xd1+

The point of the previous moves. Black will get an endgame with three extra pawns.

30.♕xd1 ♘f2+ 31.♔g1 ♘xd1 32.♗c1 e2 33.♗d2 ♘e3 34.♗e4 ♘c4 35.♗e1 ♘xa3 36.♔f2 ♘b5 37.♔xe2 ♘d7 38.♔e3 ♘f6 39.♗d3 ♔f8 40.♔f4 ♘d5+ 41.♔e5 a6 42.♗f1 ♔e7 43.♗h3 ♘a3 44.♔e4 ♘c2 45.♗f2 ♘dxb4

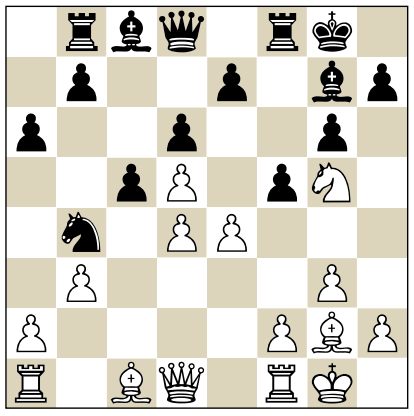
A fourth pawn has fallen. High time to resign.

46.f6+ gxf6 47.♗c8 a5 48.♗h4 a4 White resigned.

Before the tournament I thought that eight points should be enough for shared first prize. In previous years, the winner had always scored 8½ points, but it seemed to me that the players were a fraction stronger this year. In the end, three players finished on eight points. Sokolov and Hector both played an excellent tournament, but Cheparinov was the deserved winner on tiebreak. His opening preparation is exceptionally good. In the penultimate round he scored an important victory with black.

KI 71.4 – E63
Krzysztof Bulski
Ivan Cheparinov
Helsingor 2012 (9)

1.d4 ♘f6 2.c4 g6 3.g3 ♗g7 4.♗g2 0-0 5.♘c3 d6 6.♘f3 ♘c6 7.0-0 a6 8.b3 ♖b8 9.♘d5 ♘xd5 10.cxd5 ♘b4 11.e4 f5 12.♘g5 c5

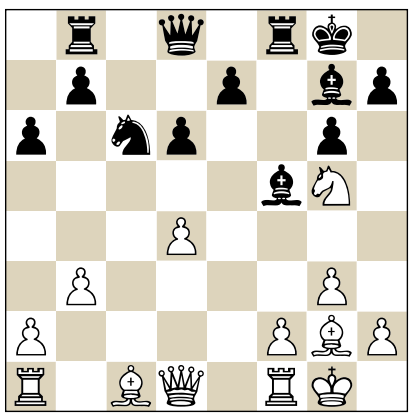


Cheparinov played all these active moves *a tempo*, whereas the Polish master was using oceans of time. All this had been played before, incidentally.

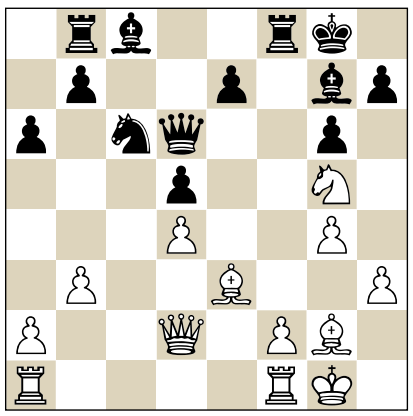
13.dxc6 ♘xc6 14.exf5 ♗xf5

This is the novelty. In Rustemov-Loginov, Elista 2001, Black played the less solid 14...♖xf5. It makes absolute sense to develop the queen's bishop.

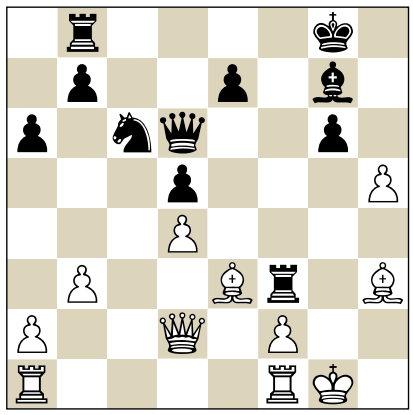
Showing exceptionally good opening preparation, Ivan Cheparinov won the 2012 Politiken Cup thanks to a better tiebreak than Ivan Sokolov and Jonny Hector.



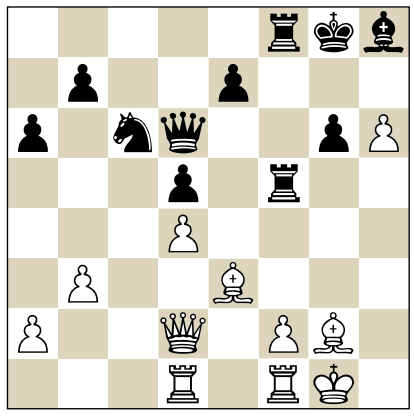
15.♗e3
An impeccable developing move in itself, yet White would have been wiser to aim for a draw with 15.♗d5+ ♔h8 16.♗b2. Black now has nothing better than 16...♕a5, and White can force a draw with 17.♘f7+ ♔g8 18.♘h6+.
15...d5 16.g4 ♗c8 17.h3 ♕d6 18.♕d2



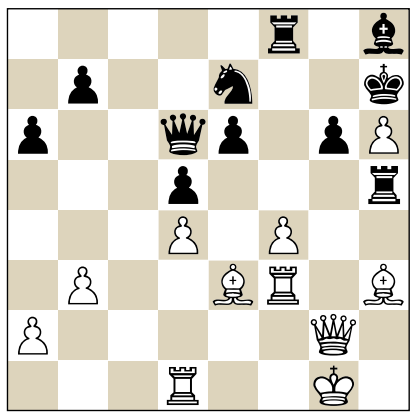
18...h6 The start of an ambitious plan. With 18...♗d7 he could have quietly completed his development.
19.♘f3 h5 20.gxh5 ♗xh3
This was the idea. Black gives up the bishop pair in order to break open the kingside.
21.♗xh3 ♖xf3



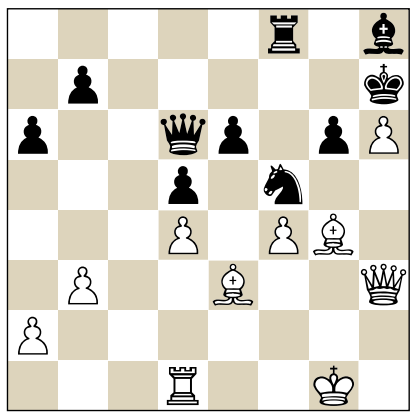
22.♗g2
An instructive inaccuracy. At first sight it seems good to withdraw the bishop and maintain the pressure on d5. But a good look at the position will tell you that Black will soon be forced to go ...e7-e6. So 22.♗g4!, to put pressure on e6, would have been stronger, after which White could face the future with confidence.
22...♖f5 23.h6 ♗h8 24.♖ad1 ♖bf8



25.f4?
This is an outright strategic error. White weakens his position, withdraws the cover of his h-pawn and robs his queen's bishop of some of its activity.
25...♔h7 26.♖f3 e6
Black is clearly better now.
27.♗h3 ♖h5 28.♕g2 ♘e7

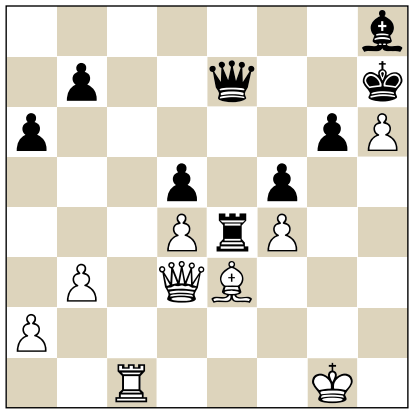


On its way to the vital square f5.
29.♗g4 ♖h4 30.♖h3 ♖xh3 31.♕xh3 ♘f5



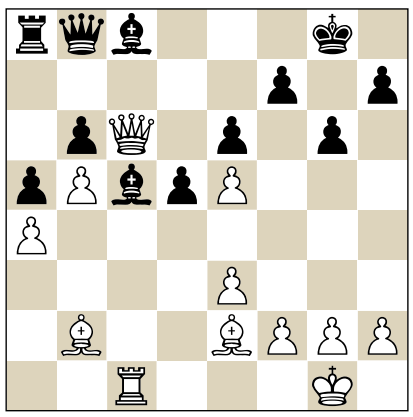
32.♗xf5 exf5
Consolidating Black's advantage. Beset by time-trouble, White quickly succumbs.
33.♕f1 ♖e8 34.♕d3 ♖e4 35.♖c1 ♕e7

Jan Timman



36.♖c3 ♖xe3 White resigned.

In the final round, Cheparinov made a serious attempt to become the sole winner. Against l'Ami he quickly got an overwhelming position.



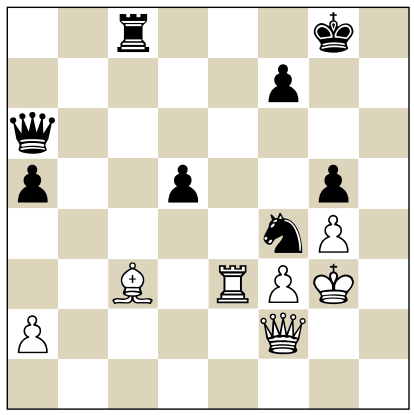
Cheparinov-l'Ami
position after 24...♗c5

With 25.♕e8+ ♔g7 26.♗d4 White could have increased his advantage with simple means. L'Ami had planned to play 26...♕c7 and meet 27.♕c6 with 27...♕xc6 28.bxc6 ♗xd4 29.exd4 ♔f8, but he didn't really believe it was going to work. And it's true that after 30.c7 Black can hardly stir. White has plenty of time to create an open file on the kingside. Instead, Cheparinov sacrificed an exchange with

25.♖xc5 bxc5 26.♕xc5

White is still better here, but with accurate play l'Ami managed to keep the balance.

Malakhov, the man with the highest rating, had won the Politiken Cup before, but this time he was not in top form. He lost against Halkias from a better position and only managed to make his score respectable by wins in the final two rounds. In the final round, Malakhov overlooked a fantastic mating combination.



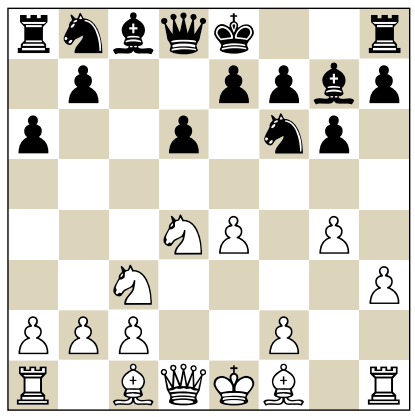
Glud-Malakhov
position after 41.♗xc3

Here Malakhov played **41...♕h6** and after **42.♕h2** he swapped the queens and eventually won, although the endgame is probably objectively a draw. How could he have won beautifully? I will give you the solution at the end.

I myself caught up with the leaders by winning in the penultimate round.

SI 14.12 – B90
Allan Stig Rasmussen
Jan Timman
Helsingor 2012 (9)

1.e4 c5 2.♘f3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.♘xd4 ♘f6 5.♘c3 a6 6.h3 g6 7.g4 ♗g7



8.♗g2 Fischer successfully played 8.g5 ♘h5 9.♗e2 against Reshevsky here, but later defended the black position with equal success. After 9...e5 10.♘b3 ♘f4 Black has solved his opening problems.

NOT YET A SUBSCRIBER?

You are not yet a subscriber to New In Chess (eight issues a year)? Give it a try. Take out an Intro-subscription on the premier chess magazine in the world today, and receive five issues for a special price. An Intro-Subscription is only for new subscribers.

	EUROPE	U.K.	U.S.A & CANADA	REST OF THE WORLD
Intro Subscription (5 issues)	€ 38.25	£ 32.25	$ 49	€ 47
1 year (8 issues)	€ 76.50	£ 64.50	$ 98	€ 94
2 years (16 issues)	€ 145	£ 121	$ 191	€ 165
3 years (24 issues)	€ 215	£ 181	$ 277	€ 239

SUBSCRIBE DIRECTLY AT WWW.NEWINCHESS.COM

New In Chess, P.O. Box 1093, 1810 KB Alkmaar, The Netherlands. Phone: 0031-(0)72 512 7137, Fax 0031-(0)72 515 8234, www.newinchess.com, nic@newinchess.com

NEW! NEW!
USA and Canada only: New In Chess c/o Land of Chess, 707 Skokie Blvd, Suite 600, Northbrook, IL 60062, Phone: 847-480-2780, www.newinchess.com, nic@newinchess.com
NEW! **Checks should be made payable to *Land of Chess*** NEW!

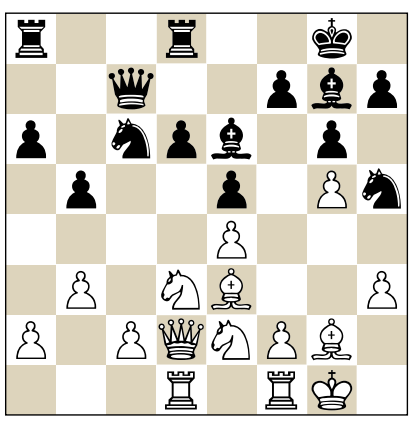
Jan Timman: one day you take the draw, the other day you don't.

8...0-0 9.♗e3 ♘c6 10.♕d2 ♗d7 11.g5 Anyway. After playing this move Rasmussen offered a draw, which surprised me. We were both on 6 out of 8, and in an open tournament this means you have to win. So I rejected his offer quite resolutely.

11...♘h5 12.♘ce2 ♘a5 13.b3 e5 I decided to change the set-up, especially because the knight does not have a very good square.

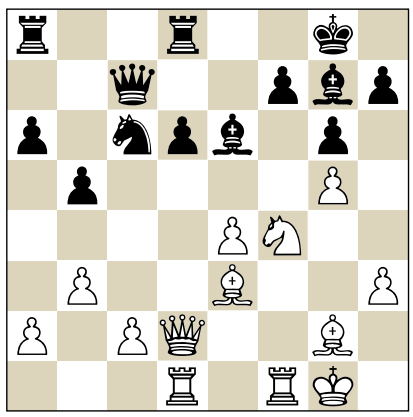
14.♘f3 ♕c7 15.♖d1 15.c4 is probably slightly better here, to maintain White's influence in the centre.

15...♗e6 16.0-0 ♖fd8 17.♘e1 b5 18.♘d3 ♘c6



19.f4 The standard move in this type of position.

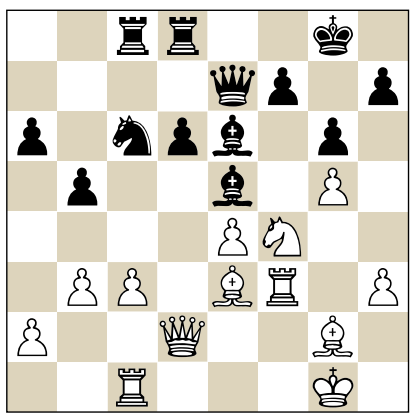
19...exf4 20.♘dxf4 ♘xf4 21.♘xf4



21...♗e5

Providing extra cover for the d-pawn. After 22.♘d5 Black continues 22...♗xd5 23.exd5 ♘b8 and the knight is redeployed via d7.

22.c3 ♕e7 23.♖f3 ♖ac8 24.♖c1



24...♗g7

Regrouping. Black is going to transfer the knight to e5.

25.♖f2 ♘e5 26.♔h1 ♖d7 27.♗f1 ♖dc7 28.♘e2 ♘d7

The knight is being manoeuvred to better squares. Slowly but surely Black is getting the upper hand.

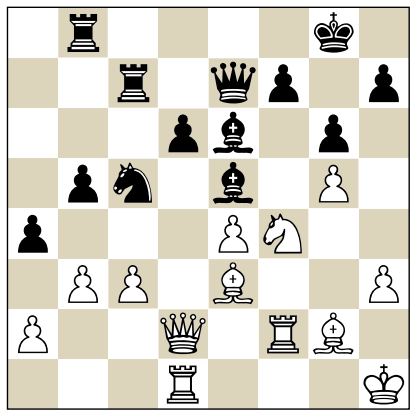
29.♗g2 ♘c5 30.♘f4 a5 31.♖d1 ♗e5

The bishop is back at its central post. Great accuracy will now be required from White.

32.♕e2

In time-trouble White fails to find the best defence. Stronger was 32.♖df1.

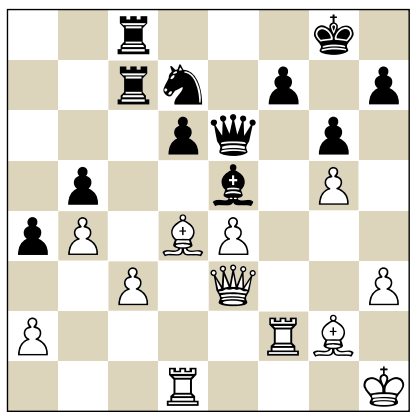
32...♖b8 33.♕d2 a4



Black has reached his strategic goal. White is forced to advance his b-pawn, handing all strategic trumps on the queenside to his opponent.

34.b4 ♘d7 35.♘xe6 ♕xe6 36.♗d4 ♖bc8 37.♕e3

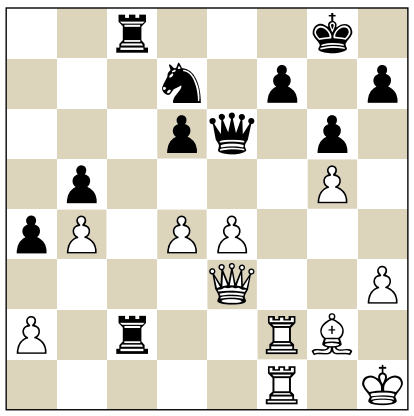
Again, 37.♖df1 would have been better here, since Black now penetrates decisively via the c-file.



37...♗xd4 38.cxd4 ♖c2 39.♖df1

White's best practical chance.

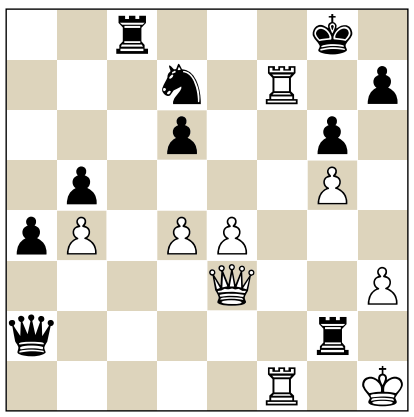
Jan Timman



39...♖8c3

It goes without saying that I had planned to play 39...♕xa2 here, and my intuition confirmed that this had to be good. But I didn't have enough time to calculate everything.

After 40.♖xf7 ♖xg2 White has two queen moves:



ANALYSIS DIAGRAM

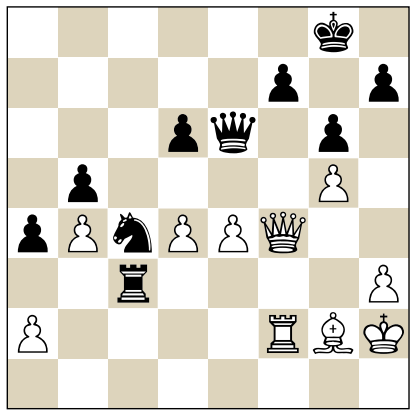
A) 41.♕f3. I had seen that 41...♕e2 was possible now, to swap the queens, but I didn't think the position after 42.♖xd7 ♕xf3 43.♖xf3 ♖e2 44.♖f1 was a clear win. Better is 41...♖b2!, forcing the rook swap with 42...♖b1 after 42.♖xd7, when the passed a-pawn will eventually decide, although this is very hard to calculate.

B) 41.♕f4. This queen move also took a lot of thinking. 41...♖b2 is again good, since 42.♖xd7 fails to 42...♕e6. There is another hidden winning move in the position, viz. 41...♕e2, the point being 42.♖xd7 ♖h2+!, and White is mated. A nice combinatory motif.

40.♕f4 ♖xf2 41.♖xf2 ♘b6

The time-control having been made, I realized that I would have to win this game all over again. Black is still slightly better.

42.♔h2 ♘c4



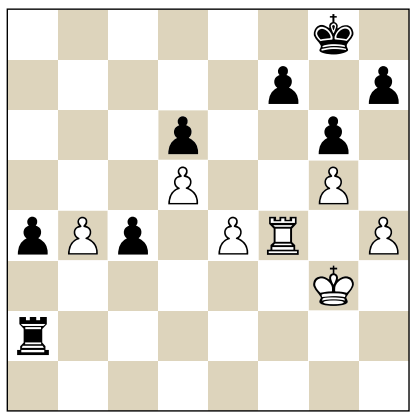
43.h4

A serious mistake. White should have aimed for the rook swap with 43.♖f3.

43...♖d3! Suddenly the d-pawn can no longer be covered.

44.d5 ♕e5 Of course. Black's strategic advantages can be brought to bear the most effectively in the endgame.

45.♗f1 ♕xf4+ 46.♖xf4 ♖d2+ 47.♔g3 ♖xa2 48.♗xc4 bxc4



49.♖f6

49.e5 would have been more tenacious, but Black will always manage to cash in his extra pawn in the end. I will give the instructive winning route without comment: 49...dxe5 50.♖xc4 ♖d2 51.♖c8+ ♔g7 52.♖a8 ♖d3+ 53.♔g2 a3 54.d6 ♖xd6 55.♖xa3 ♖d2+ 56.♔f3 ♖h2 57.♔g3 ♖b2 and wins. Everything perfectly systematic.

49...a3 50.♖xd6 ♖d2 51.♖a6 a2 52.♔f3 Crucial is 52.b5, when Black wins with 52...c3 53.b6 c2 54.b7 ♖d3+, followed by 55...♖b3.

52...c3 53.♔e3 ♖h2 54.♔f3 c2 55.♖xa2 ♖h3 56.♔g2 ♖c3 and White resigned.

Helsingör 2012

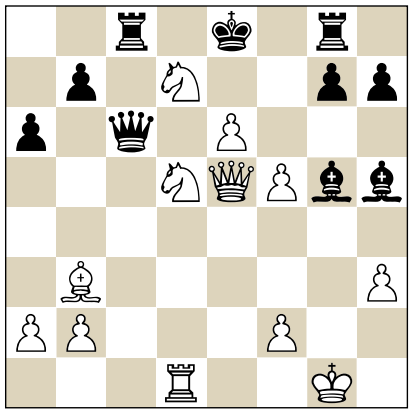
1	Ivan Cheparinov	IGM	BUL	2677	8
2	Ivan Sokolov	IGM	NED	2676	8
3	Jonny Hector	IGM	SWE	2530	8
4	Alexey Dreev	IGM	RUS	2677	7½
5	Dusan Popovic	IGM	SRB	2579	7½
6	Stelios Halkias	IGM	GRE	2570	7½
7	Vladimir Malakhov	IGM	RUS	2712	7½
	Erwin l'Ami	IGM	NED	2615	7½
9	Robert Markus	IGM	SRB	2599	7½
10	Jacob Aagaard	IGM	DEN	2506	7½
11	Sune Berg Hansen	IGM	DEN	2577	7½
	Jan Timman	IGM	NED	2575	7½
13	Vladimir Burmakin	IGM	RUS	2590	7½
	Krzysztof Bulski	IM	POL	2554	7½
15	Lars Schandorff	IGM	DEN	2516	7½
16	Rasmus Svane	-	GER	2367	7½
17	Stellan Brynell	IGM	SWE	2498	7½
18	Evgeny Romanov	IGM	RUS	2623	7½
19	Jakob Vang Glud	IM	DEN	2500	7
20	Ivan Salgado	IGM	ESP	2635	7
21	Tiger Hillarp Persson	IGM	SWE	2575	7
22	Allan Stig Rasmussen	IGM	DEN	2496	7
23	Simon Bekker-Jensen	IM	DEN	2394	7
24	Jonathan Carlstedt	IM	GER	2352	7
25	Erik Zude	IM	GER	2384	7
26	Ilmars Starostits	IGM	LAT	2494	7

292 players, 10 rounds

In the final round I was Black again. My opponent, Robert Markus, offered a draw after 14 moves. This time I accepted; you can't expect things to go your way again after so many tiring days.

There is a problem with 10-round open tournaments: the organization tries to keep the colour distribution 5-5 for all players, but this doesn't always work. But because of these attempts it sometimes happens that contenders have white or black twice in the final two rounds. This is not fair, since the final two rounds in an open tournament are crucial. I believe that the aim should be to keep the colour distribution after eight rounds as close as possible to 4-4 for the contenders, in which case all of them would be able to finish the tournament with a game as White and a game as Black.

In a big open tournament the strangest things can happen. In Round 7, Alina l'Ami escaped in incredible fashion.



Jensen-A.l'Ami
position after 24...♗h5

White is absolutely winning. The computer's assessment quickly shoots up to +12.
The most elegant win is 25.♘b8, but 25.♖d3 and 25.♕g3 are also hammerblows. It is hard to find a move that doesn't win. Or is it?

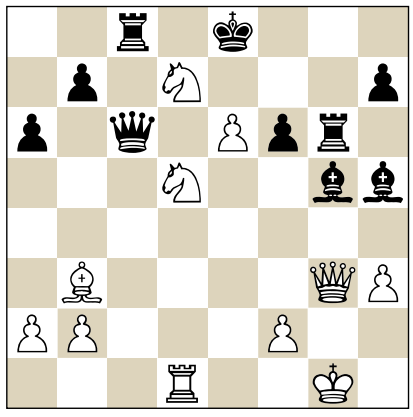
25.f6??

Alina later told me that she felt enormous excitement when White went for his f-pawn: a miracle was about to happen.

25...gxf6

Suddenly the g-file has been opened, with the result that the white king is also in danger.

26.♕g3 ♖g6



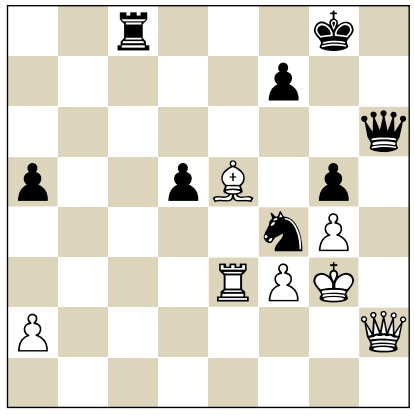
27.♘7xf6+?

Abandoned by all the gods White makes another error, after which he is hopelessly lost. With 27.♖e1 he could just have kept the balance.

27...♗xf6 28.♘xf6+ ♖xf6 29.♕g8+ ♖f8 30.♕xh7 ♗xd1 31.♕g6+ ♔d8 32.e7+ ♔xe7 33.♕g7+ ♔d6

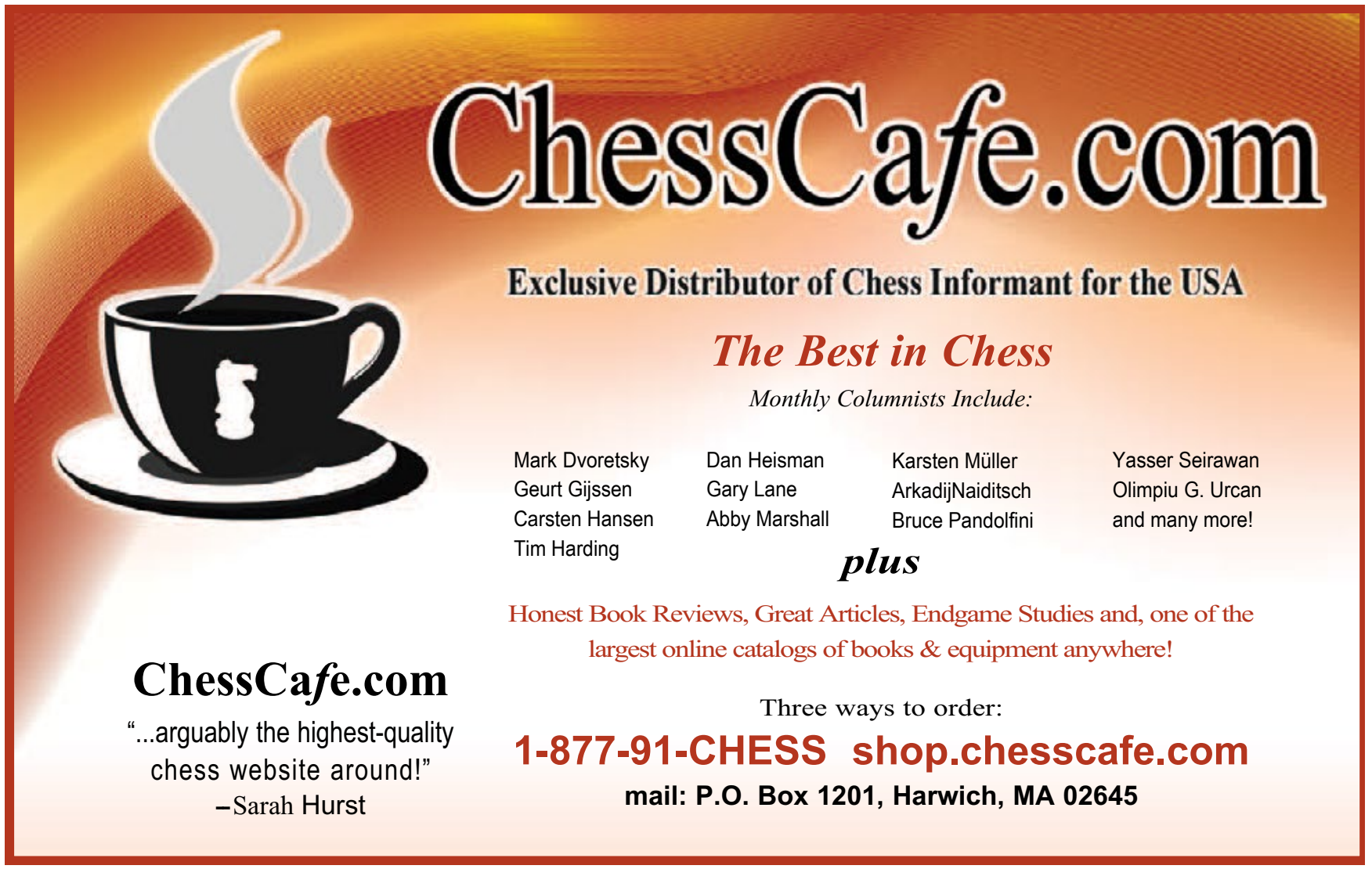
White resigned.

And to conclude, I return to the question of how Malakhov could have won.
First he should have played 41...♕d6 to lure the white bishop away from the c-file. After 42.♗e5 ♕h6 43.♕h2



Glud-Malakhov

he has the hammerblow 43...♖c2!!, mating or winning the queen.
For completeness sake, instead of 41...♕d6 right away, 41...d4 was also possible. After 42.♗xd4 the winning move is 42...♕d6 again, because of the same motif. ■



Sam Shankland

CURRENT ELO: 2581
DATE OF BIRTH: October 1, 1991
PLACE OF BIRTH: Berkeley, California
PLACE OF RESIDENCE: Waltham, Massachusetts, and Orinda, California

What is your favourite colour?
Pink.

What kind of food makes you happy?
Sushi, lamb vindaloo, dumplings, anything spicy!

And what drink?
Sparkling water, good beer (but not during tournaments!).

Who is your favourite author?
Agatha Christie.

What was the best or most interesting book you ever read?
I'd like to say, but come on, plenty of youngsters read this magazine.

What is your all-time favourite movie?
Borat!

What is your favourite TV series?
Family Guy.

Do you have a favourite actor?
Tom Cruise. People say I look like him.

And a favourite actress?
Jessica Alba. Obvious reasons.

What do you see as your best result ever?
Winning my first round match of the 2011 World Cup against Peter Leko.

What was the best game you ever played?
All my good games are still imperfect in so many ways! If I had to pick one it would be my win over Illya Nyzhnyk (Biel 2011), but even this game contained many mistakes.

Who is your favourite chess player?
Yermo! His writing and commentary is pure genius. Oh, you meant just as a player? Probably Kramnik. I like how he seems to know everything in the opening and endgame and every positional idea there is, but still calculates like a madman. He strikes me as a very complete player.

Is there a chess book that had a profound influence on you?
The first chess book I ever read, which helped me build an appreciation for the game. It was a tactics book of some kind, but I don't remember the title… Maybe 'The 10 Most Common Chess Mistakes', but I could be mistaken.

What was the most exciting chess game you ever saw?
Game 2 from the Kramnik-Topalov match. All the way through it was insane, and I'm very fortunate to have been able to follow it live, trying to guess the moves without engine assistance.

What are chess players particularly good at (except for chess)?
Drinking!

Do chess players have typical shortcomings?
I think they can be too analytical at times when emotional response is more appropriate – this is one of the qualities that make good chess players.

Do you have any superstitions concerning chess?
I think that I will always win if I am wearing my lucky boxer shorts.

Who or what would you like to be if you weren't yourself?
A wallaby.

Which three people would you like to invite for dinner?
The Three Stooges.

Is there something you'd love to learn?
I wish I could play tennis. I love the game, but I'm so terrible that it's embarrassing to even try.

What is your greatest fear?
Someone videotaping me dancing in my bedroom and having it go viral on YouTube.

What would you save from your house if it were on fire?
My dog, my laptop, and a fire extinguisher.

What is the stupidest rule in chess?
That when a pawn reaches the last rank it has to promote! Let it stay a pawn if it wants! I lost a game like this once, I could have self-stalemated if it had stayed a pawn.

What will be the nationality of the 2050 Chess World Champion?
Martian, 100% sure.

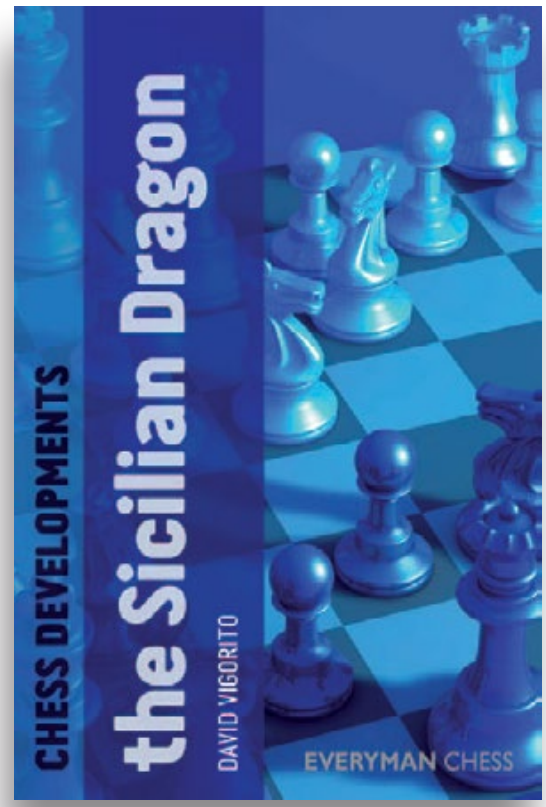
Is a knowledge of chess useful in everyday life?
Not that I know of.

What is the best thing that was ever said about chess?
Something Tal said about how chess can rewrite the laws of mathematics to make 2+2=5. That's some serious power right there!

EVERYMAN CHESS

CHESS DEVELOPMENTS

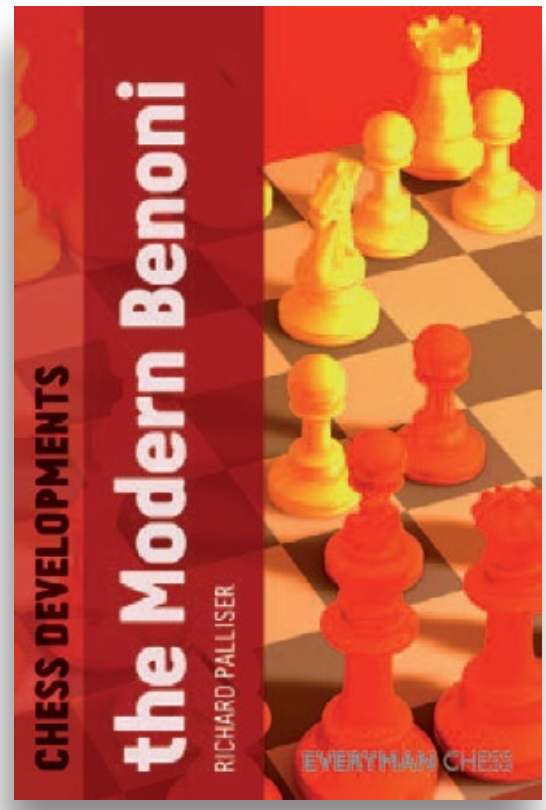
This is a brand new series providing state-of-the-art openings coverage. **CHESS DEVELOPMENTS** focuses on the current trends - concentrating on critical lines, theoretical novelties and powerful new ideas.



Chess Developments: Sicilian Dragon
Available in Paperback, €20.95, 320 pages
Also available as an ebook: Kindle, cbv and pgn formats

"jam-packed with original analysis, improvements, or alternatives to the analysis done by others....the journey it will take the reader on is both full of wonder and instruction."
Carsten Hansen, Chesscafe.com

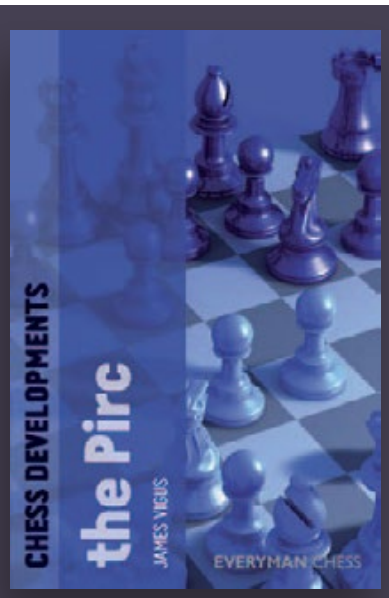
"warmly recommended to Dragon aficionados from 1800 on up. Vigorito's reputation as a first rate author continues to grow."
John Donaldson, Chess Today



Chess Developments: The Modern Benoni
Available in Paperback, €20.95, 288 pages
Also available as an ebook: Kindle, cbv and pgn formats

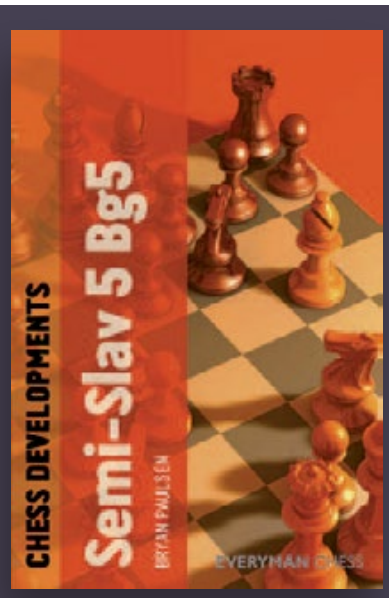
"a cutting-edge guide to the Modern Benoni for any aspiring chess tournament player"
Martin Rieger, Rochade Europa

COMING SOON:



Chess Developments: The Pirc
by James Vigus, August 2012

Chess Developments: The Grünfeld
by David Vigorito, November 2012



Chess Developments: Semi-Slav 5 Bg5
by Bryan Paulsen, January 2013

All Everyman chess books are available from your specialist chess dealer including www.newinchess.com
All ebooks are available from **www.everymanchess.com** and **www.newinchess.com**

New ICC Website & Store

A fresh & modern look! • Improved navigation & greater ease of use! • Brand new ICC Store with Reward Points, Referral Program ... and much more!

ICC
Internet Chess Club

www.chessclub.com

Where the GrandMasters play!

Reward Points system

Register on our site and we'll give you **30 Reward Points FREE!**

Referral Program

We're rolling out a brand new referral program that will allow you to earn money simply by inviting your friends to join ICC. When one of your friends accepts your invitations and joins ICC, you'll earn **150 Reward Points** that can be used for anything in our store! Including memberships of course.

Special Coupon

As a big **THANK YOU** for giving our store a try, here's a coupon code to use for a nice surprise! When checking out, use the coupon code '**OPENING**' to receive your special gift. You won't be disappointed!